Walsall
CHRONICLE
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Pledge to rid borough of illegal encampments

£100k FUND TO FIGHT TRAVELLERS

By Jordan Harris

WALSALL Council is to use £100,000 a year to tackle travellers in the borough – and will be setting up physical barriers at key sites to stop groups from gaining access.

It comes after the council received a landmark injunction allowing it to swiftly move travellers on from certain sites.

Council leader Councillor Sean Coughlan made the £100,000 pledge in an open letter to Aldridge and Brownhills MP Wendy Morton.

The borough has been plagued by travellers over recent years. The injunction obtained from the county court restricts the setting up of encampments or anti-social behaviour at 12 specific sites, including Delves Green Common.

In his open letter, Councillor Coughlan addressed the scale of the problem and what can be done to tackle it.

He said: "The council is well aware of the problems caused to local people across the borough. We have obtained an injunction against anyone who wishes to engage in anti-social behaviour across the borough or to set up encampments on any of a dozen named sites.

Impact

"Taken together with other measures which will over the coming months be rolled out to introduce physical barriers to key sites, we hope to reduce the impact of unauthorised encampments on local people."

Councillor Coughlan added that despite the council's tough financial position, the £100,000 would still be put up to help with the fight against illegal encampments.

He said: "Since 2011 Walsall, one of the most deprived boroughs in the country, has had its core funding reduced by £89.6 million and in recent years the reduction of our workforce by one third. Against this very difficult financial situation, the council will commit around £100,000 this year to measures to reduce unauthorised encampments."

The process of moving camps on usually takes three to five days after a court order is granted. However, obtaining the recent injunction will make it much quicker to move illegal camps off.

Other sites hit by camps over the last year include Walsall Arboretum, Anchor Meadow playing fields and land at Hawthorn Road. Signs will now go up at the 12 sites warning travellers that unless they meet the requirements of a welfare check allowing them to stay on the site, they will have to move on.

COUPLE'S ANGER OVER WAIT FOR NEW SHEDS



Kevin and Sue Horobin have been left without replacement sheds and a greenhouse since they were damamged by builders for McCarthy & Stone

A WOMAN who had two garden sheds and a greenhouse 'destroyed' as a result of work on retirement apartments next door is still waiting for a replacement five months later.

Sue Horobin, aged 62, of Leighswood Road, Aldridge, heard a 'great bang' when builders for McCarthy & Stone knocked down a wall next to her home.

She noticed the two sheds and a greenhouse belonging to herself and husband Kevin broken and claimed she has since had trouble organising replacements through the company.

She said: "I was just at home in the kitchen and heard this great bang. My son asked me what was happening so I went in the garden and saw the two sheds and our greenhouse destroyed.

"I was shocked but spoke to the builders who, to be fair to them, said they would organise getting them replaced. However, I didn't think it would take this long."

So far, Mrs Horobin claims she has been given three replacement sheds, all of which were too small. She has offered to pay for and assemble the new sheds herself and then pass the bill on to McCarthy & Stone but says this was rejected. She has also been left with an unfinished replacement greenhouse for a month, with builders claiming they couldn't complete the job because the instruction manual 'got wet'.

"I just feel like I have been passed from pillar to post and I am really at the end of my tether," said Mrs Horobin.

"This should never have happened in the first place but I am just upset at how long it has taken."

McCarthy & Stone were unavailable for comment.

PLANNING

Bedsits look likely despite objections

PLANNING officers have recommended approval of a controversial scheme to convert a former hotel in to a house of multiple occupation for more than 30 people.

The former Abberley Hotel in Bescot Road, Walsall, will be transformed into a 32-bedroom HMO with 19 parking spaces if Walsall Council planning committee agrees to the proposals.

Residents have opposed the plans on the grounds of noise issues and too many bedsits. A 40-signature petition has been handed in.

ACCIDENT

Road closed after two-car collision

A ROAD in Walsall was temporarily closed following a crash on Sunday evening.

Two crews from Walsall Fire Station attended a two-car collision on Wolverhampton Road, near KFC at 7.30pm.

Crews temporarily closed the section of the road where the crash took place.

No serious injuries were reported, with one person taken to the Manor Hospital for a check up.

The crash did result in damage to the vehicles involved.

EMERGENCY

Boy stuck in canal mud pulled clear

A 12-year-old boy had to be rescued by emergency services after getting stuck in the canal at Rushall.

West Midlands Fire Service were called shortly before 7pm last Thursday to the canal locks at Bell Bridge, off Walstead Road. It received reports of a boy stuck in the mud up to his waist.

A service spokesman said: "We had a call from someone saying their friend was stuck in mud.

"We sent one crew from Walsall which included five firefighters. They freed the boy using ladders and ropes and left at 7.42pm."

INSIDE:

Close shave for youngster Owen



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Luda bingo scheme set for backing



Artist's image of the bingo hall

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a multi-million pound bingo hall in Walsall town centre are set to get the go ahead.

Mecca Bingo Limited submitted the proposals for Park Street at the end of August. Now Walsall Council's planning committee have been advised by officers to approve the plans.

Mecca, which wants the site at 9-11 Park Street to be a Luda Bingo, say the hall will have a bingo room, a cafe area and an electric lounge – featuring jackpot gambling machines.

But it is these machines that have left the plans shrouded in controversy, with town centre Councillor Aftab Nawaz saying the scheme will 'ruin the town centre'.

He added: "We need to try and get a more diverse mix of businesses. We do not want a high street full of gambling outlets. I don't think this would be attractive to shoppers and would instead drive them away."

The scheme has come in for further criticism after it was revealed that the BBC Pension Fund own the site and will have agreed to the plans, despite a Panorama show airing on BBC Two earlier this month looking at the addiction and problems with gambling machines.

A spokesman for the BBC said: "Any potential tenant under consideration by the pension fund's property manager must abide by the necessary legislation."

Mecca say they would spend £12 million on its lease for the site, and would refurbish the currently vacant units for £900,000.

The company said there would be 25 new jobs up for grabs, in full and part-time positions, if it gets the go ahead.

New bar in pipeline as old club put up for rent

A NEW bar could be on the way for Walsall after the site of the old Rift and Co was put up for rent.

Estate agents Bond Wolfe, based in West Bromwich, is advertising the Bridge Street site to be rented for £90,000 a year or £7,500 per month.

The former nightclub, which boasts a bar area, cellar, kitchen, toilets and a store room, closed towards the end of last year.

It is located in a popular spot for night-time revellers, with Japanese cocktail bar Makoto located next door and Revolution slightly further up the street.

The 9,060 sq ft property, which is listed on Rightmove, is described as a 'substantial ground floor premises' which benefits from a 'glass open frontage opening on to Bridge Street'.

Labour Councillor Aftab Nawaz, town centre representative for the St Matthews ward, said: "I certainly would not like to see more gambling or fast-food establishments, although I do need to keep an open mind being on the licensing committee.

Shabby

"We already have several of these in the town centre. I would like to see something that is going to up the attractiveness of the area and bring people in from all over Walsall and surrounding areas.

"If you just go up from there you have the old telephone exchange which is looking particularly shabby and that is not what you want people to see.

"The town centre has been developing really well at the top end by the art gallery and it is time this area got a bit of investment and a bit of development as well."

He added: "Bars and clubs have a place in Walsall especially at the night time. It would be great if it created jobs as well but we need to make sure Walsall town centre has a good both day and night offering."


The bar and dancefloor area of the former Rift and Co


A view of part of the building's interior


The nightclub in Bridge Street, Walsall, formerly called Rift and Co, which is on the market

Hospital fall contributed to death of elderly man

A FALL at a Black Country hospital contributed to the death of a pensioner, a coroner ruled.

James Garratt, of Joynson Street, Wednesbury, was admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital with constipation on June 27.

Two days later the 81-year-old fell and broke his femur and underwent surgery. He later contracted a urinary tract infection which resulted in his death on July 3.

Assistant Coroner Angus Smillie returned a conclusion of accidental death. The inquest heard the trust running Manor Hospital produced a report having investigated the fall and the coroner ruled out neglect, saying hospital staff had enforced appropriate measures to prevent a fall.

Returning a conclusion of accidental death, he said: "There was no gross failure to provide medical attention for Mr Garratt. He was the unfortunate sufferer of an accidental fall for which appropriate steps to prevent such a fall had been taken.

"I am satisfied that the steps taken were sufficient to satisfy the test that it was not neglect. Regrettably this was an accident."

Mr Smillie found there were several 'elements of causation' in addition to the fall, which led to Mr Garratt's death.

Among them were pre-existing illnesses including a recurrence of lung cancer, which was diagnosed at the start of the year, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

College awarded over its safety

A COLLEGE has been recognised for its approach to health and safety as part of a national awards scheme.

Walsall College has been given the gold standard award by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The RoSPA Awards is celebrating 60 years of presenting highly-regarded and sought-after accolades to businesses and organisations which have shown commitment to accident and ill-health prevention.

David Purchase, health and safety and environment manager at the college, said: "I am delighted that we have maintained our outstanding standards and received another gold this year."

The majority of awards are non-competitive and mark achievement at merit, bronze, silver and gold levels.

Free pint offer at brewery barbecue

A BREWERY is holding an Indian Summer barbecue. Everyone who goes along to the Backyard Brewhouse event on Saturday, dressed for the beach will get a free pint. The event at the Backyard's own tap in Lichfield Road runs from 11am to 5.30pm.





Train driver is assaulted by passenger

A TRAIN driver was assaulted by a passenger during a commuter service from Wolverhampton to Walsall.

The train was stopped for almost 30 minutes as British Transport Police were called to the scene on Monday.

The incident happened on the 7.50am London Midland service.

The train was stopped at Duddeston train station to allow police on board at around 8.40am.

London Midland tweeted to confirm that 15 minutes delays remained on the line following the 'disturbance'.

British Transport Police spokesman Sarah Buxton said: "On arrival at the scene, officers found the driver was uninjured and no official complaint was received.

"An 18-year-old man admitted assaulting the driver and, after consulting with all parties concerned, the matter was dealt with by way of a community resolution."

Conversion of house refused

PLANS to convert a house into shops and offices have been refused by council bosses.

Proposals submitted from GT Designz to transform 41 Brace Street in Caldmore, Walsall, into a retail and office space have been turned down by planning bosses on the grounds that there is not enough demand for such a development in the area.

A refusal statement from Steve Pretty, head of planning with Walsall Council, said: "The application has failed to demonstrate that it will serve an important local need.

"The council is not satisfied that there are exceptional local need circumstances which would over-ride the presumption against such a development."

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, who represents the area, said he agreed with the decision.

Weekend closure of M6 southbound

THE southbound stretch of the M6 will be closed overnight between 9pm and 6am from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

The closure is between Junction 10 for Wolverhampton and Walsall to Junction 8, the turn-off for West Bromwich and the M5.

The carriageway, including the entry and exit slip roads, will be out of action between 9pm and 6am from Friday until Sunday.

Black history talent showcase

ENTRIES are sought for a talent show in Walsall marking Black History Month. Walsall Black Sisters Collective is seeking people to perform on October 28. Call 01922 616996 or e-mail wallblacksisters@aol.com

£1m landscape job gets under way



The landscaping project launch

A £1 MILLION landscape project at the heart of a new 400-home development is under way.

Following the revamp residents at the Waters Keep estate in Walsall will be able to enjoy the improved open spaces and play facilities at the nearby Lea and Swannies Fields sites located in Goscote Lane. A new skate park, football pitch, play areas, and trim trail, together with improved paths and towpaths, are just some of the scheduled improvements.

The first stage of the six-month work programme has now begun and includes site clearance, drainage and landscaping.

The project is being led by the council, together with the Canal and River Trust (C&RT), who have appointed South Staffordshire based landscaping firm Jack Moody LCE Ltd to deliver the works.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, deputy leader and portfolio holder for regeneration at Walsall Council said: "Improving the open space and canal corridor is central to supporting and sustaining the regeneration aspirations. The development programme for the area is bringing together the housing, employment, and outdoor leisure opportunities, which will enhance the community and benefit so many local people over the coming months and years."

Through the contract a number of landscape jobs and apprenticeships will also be created for local people, as well as supply chain opportunities for Walsall-based companies.

Gordon Griffiths, director of landscaping at Jack Moody LCE Ltd said: "We are delighted to have secured this contract with Walsall Council."

Services 'at risk' in council budget, claim

A WALSALL councillor believes services across the board will be at risk when the authority produces its draft budget at the end of the month.

Liberal Democrat councillor Ian Shires says the council's current financial situation is 'dire', with around £40 million of cuts needed to be made in the next year alone in the face of central government cuts.

He added the authority was 'past the bare bones' in terms of what it can offer outside of its statutory services after four years of making savings.

Councillor Shires admitted that all services outside of adult social care and children's care will be hit. However, he has pledged the council will do its best to speak with residents about what services they want saving and what can be done to do that. At the same time, he admitted another increase in council tax is likely for the year ahead.

Councillor Shires said: "The government is more concerned with things outside council services and we have to find a lot of money over the next four years just to cover the cut in funding we get from government.

Vulnerable

"The cuts will affect every resident in one way or another, we as a council will be able to offer less and less.

"However, it is important that the most vulnerable people in our borough, our older population and children are kept safe and healthy. Like councils across the county, Walsall's has to look very carefully at how it delivers every part of what it does.

"We are past the bare bones already, we have cut so much over the last four years but we need to put together a balanced budget. The situation is dire."

Councillor Ian Robertson has already claimed the council will need to raise its council tax by 57 per cent in the next two years to retain its current level of services.

He said the council's expenditure on NHS and council services were 'totally unsustainable' and 'already close to running on empty.'

Councillor Robertson, who is responsible for health, has warned the public that cuts will have to be made, or council tax will need to go up by 30 per cent next year and 27 per cent the following year.



New principal of Pool Hayes Academy in Willenhall, Luke Baker

Head's principal aims are set out

THE new principal at a Willenhall academy has set his sights on achieving an outstanding Ofsted rating during his tenure.

Former vice principal Luke Baker was appointed to the top role in September 1 at Pool Hayes Academy, part of Academy Transformation Trust. It which converted to an academy in February. Its current Ofsted rating, following an inspection in February, is to be announced.

Mr Baker said: "Our results have significantly improved over the last two years, and with a continued drive for success and the development of strong relationships, we aim to make even more progress towards our goal.

"I have every hope that we can achieve our target of becoming an outstanding academy – we're already on the right track."

Luke was born and raised in Kent, but after a weekend in the Midlands 20 years ago, he never left the region. He spends his spare time watching his four sons play football, or cycling to a country pub with his wife of 18 years, Kate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Home deliveries by burger chain

FAST food giant Burger King has revealed it is now doing home delivery in Walsall, the place once dubbed 'land of the fatties'.

Their decision has already come under scrutiny by councillors, who are concerned about the effect it will have on the health of residents.

Conservative Councillor Rose Martin, the council's former health boss, said: "This is not really going to help."

In January, a sign it was revealed a resident had made a sign reading: "Welcome to Walsall land of the fatties."

Motorway crash man is cut free

A MAN had to be cut free from his car after it left the road and hit a tree in a smash with a lorry on the M5.

Long queues built up on the motorways and surrounding roads last Thursday morning as emergency crews tried to help the man. The crash happened on the southbound slip road of the M5, near to the M6 link, in Great Barr, shortly after 7.50am.

A man in his 30s, and a young boy were in the car. The man was taken to Sandwell General Hospital to be treated for back pain and cuts to his head.

Vets rewarded for care of cats

A VETS has been awarded gold status for its treatment of cats.

The 387 Veterinary Centre, in Great Wyrley, scooped Gold Cat Friendly Clinic status for meeting the highest international standards.

Practices awarded CFC status are recognised for working hard to minimise feline stress in practice, promoting cats' well-being and to having high standards of care for all visiting cats. Head nurse Nicky Smith said: "We're really proud to have achieved gold."

Beatles tribute band to play youth theatre

A BEATLES tribute band is playing at Aldridge Youth Theatre at the end of the month.

The Top Ten Beatles, from Walsall, will be at the venue on October 29.

They will be performing fresh off their sell out shows at Church Stretton Arts Festival and Lichfield Garrick.

Tickets are priced at £10 and are available now from The Croft News, High Street, Aldridge, or call 07812 341129.

Robin 2 blues night

THE UK Blues Challenge is set to get toes tapping at The Robin 2 in Bilston on November 12.

Acts featuring are Willie & the Bandits, Dove & Boweevil, Kaz Hawkins and Rebecca Downes. Tickets cost £12 on the door or £10 in advance.

Doors open at 7pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Labour Conference quote of the week? It must be: "The socialism I believe in is everybody working for the same goal," from Jeremy Corbyn who, during 33 years in Parliament, has voted against his own party at least 500 times.

MOST significant moment of Conference came when one speaker said that, if Labour wanted to win a general election, it must attract some former Tory voters. Someone in the audience shouted: "Why? We don't want Tories." Behold, the problem for any political movement which puts high principles above common sense. The Left cannot gain power without mass support, yet some of them would rather reject new supporters than risk pollution from anyone less Left than themselves. Better powerless than impure, eh, comrades?

FOOTBALL, cycling, athletics, cricket. Is there any area of sport that is squeaky-clean? Here's an idea. Let's have an investigatory pause between any team or individual winning any competition and the award of the trophy. About four years should do it.

"I HAVE more roots than Kunta Kinte," said Eva (Catherine Tyldesley) on a trip to Audrey's hair salon in Coronation Street (ITV). Corrie has now been denounced for racism and Ofcom is to investigate. The bizarre part of all this is that Kunta Kinte, star of Alex Haley's book and TV series, did not have roots. He was the root. It was Haley, tracing his lineage back to Africa, who discovered his own roots, all the way back to Kunta Kinte. The Corrie line was not only nonsense but an example of middle-class humour being put into the mouth of a working-class character and no-one in the editing process having the balls to say: "That's a really rubbish line. Cut it."



IF Eva had said: "I have more roots than Alex Haley," it would still have been an unlikely line to hear in a Lancashire hair salon but at least it would have made sense. And I doubt anyone would have complained. It was the uttering of an African name that caused offence (either genuine or feigned).

NOW here's a coincidence. On the very day that an open-air park for nudists was announced in Paris, the Australian state of Victoria declared mooning and streaking to be criminal acts. See? It is entirely possible to report this without using the phrase Down Under. Almost.

THANKS for your emails on the subject of American greetings we can well do without (Mexican wave, high-five, thumb-gripping etc). A reader says: "Don't forget that ridiculous greeting, the fist bump." As if we could.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£1,500 raised for family of medic

MORE than £1,500 has been raised in memory of a Willenhall paramedic whose body was found in the sea in Devon.

Thomas Hodgson was last seen on September 9 in a small dinghy heading towards his yacht off the coast of Brixham. But after the 42-year-old failed to come back a search was launched and his body was discovered in the water by a fisherman.

Former colleagues of the West Midlands Ambulance Service worker have started a fundraising campaign to donate money to Mr Hodgson's family. Within days it has smashed the initial target of £500 with more than triple that pouring in from well-wishers. Around 140 people have pledged money so far.

Many have also left messages paying tribute to Mr Hodgson. Leigh Keyte posted: "Tragic loss of such a well loved gentleman. RIP Tom."

Another colleague Martin Waite said: "I only worked five shifts with you Tom but enjoyed them. Really appreciated the effort you made to support a newbie out on the road. One of the good guys. RIP mate."

West Midlands Ambulance Service have set up their own book of condolences at the Willenhall hub where he worked on Ashmore Lake Way. The book will give people who knew Mr Hodgson a chance to write down their memories. It will be handed to the family at a later date.

Mr Hodgson's family also released a statement: "Tom was a passionate man who lived his life enjoying outdoor pursuits yet chose a profession where he was recognised in his ability to help and comfort others."

Shoppers want return of high street retailers

Report by Jack Averty

NO more pound shops, more upmarket clothes shops and move some of the bigger retailers away from out-of-town locations, back to the high street.

These are the views of Walsall shoppers who have had their say on what they want to see from the town centre.

It was reported last week that more than a quarter of shops in the borough were sitting empty – ranking it one of the worst areas in the country.

Damning statistics from the Local Data Company (LDC) show the town is sixth with 27.6 per cent of shops out of business.

Vera Barnett, aged 77, of the Alumwell estate said: "The shop offer has gone down, it is definitely not what it used to be and I am not happy with the options. I am concerned that all the shops are out on the Wharf and other places and the market is just terrible now I think.

"All you get opening now is the pound shops and there is too many of them. We need the out of town retailers to come back in."

Empty

Terry Edwards 68, also of the Alumwell estate, said he had been shopping in the town centre all his life and echoed Mrs Barnett's call for no more pound shops.

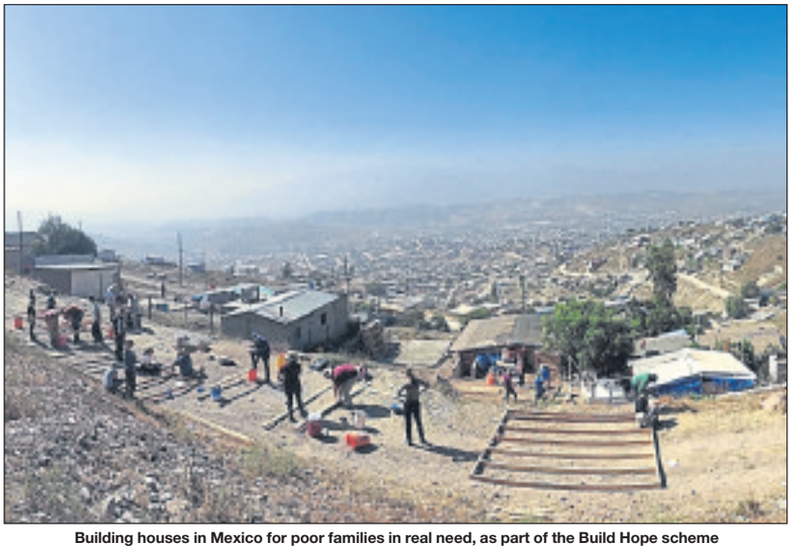
He said: "I think the shops we have at the moment are okay, I'm fine with them. I am not really sure how I feel about the empty shops. I would like to see them filled so long as it is not with pound shops."

Meanwhile the younger generation made their case for a better choice of clothes shops, with the likes of River Island and Topman having moved out to the Crown Wharf Shopping Park.

"It ain't the cleanest town centre. The shops are all right but again I have seen cleaner places," said one 16-year-old.

"I would like to have some better shops in, some clothes shops and shoe shops maybe."

Students help build new future for poor



Building houses in Mexico for poor families in real need, as part of the Build Hope scheme

TWO students from the Black Country put their building skills to the test to help build a house for a poor family in Mexico using only hand tools.

The industrious Grace Academy Darlaston students, Laura Cotterill and Grace Jenkins, raised £1,495 each to go on the 11-day trip to transform the life of a Mexican family whose previous home had been burnt down by a house fire.

The new 11 feet by 22 feet house in Tijuana which has a concrete foundation and stucco-finished exterior, will help to keep the family together who might otherwise have been unable to provide adequate housing for their children.

Some of the poorest families in Mexico live without electricity, running clean water, or access to a fridge, car and telephone and, after returning from the life-changing adventure student Laura Cotterill, aged 16, said: "I really enjoyed the trip to Mexico. I thought it was amazing to see how families could be changed by a little bit of help."

Rachael Wright, ethos youth worker at Grace Academy Darlaston who also went on the trip, said: "I am really proud of our students who took on the challenge to keep a family together. They put their all into every part of the build, taking everything in their stride.

"This opportunity has helped our students to grow, developing their perspective of the world."



From left, Laura Coterill, Rachael Wright – ethos youth worker, and Grace Jenkins

Expansion scheme for school gets green light

PLANS for a multi-million pound expansion to a primary school have been approved despite safety fears around the state of the mine shafts underneath the site.

An application was made to build a two-storey extension block at Fibbersley Park Primary School in Willenhall which would provide additional space for classrooms, the library and hall.

The scheme is estimated to cost £3.9 million. The Coal Authority declared the council had 'failed to sufficiently consider the risks' of building on the site at Noose Lane, which was last used for mining in the 1870s.

But within the last few days the council confirmed it had approved the proposal. However, development cannot start until plans to treat the former shafts are provided.

The condition on the council's decision notice states: "No development of the school extension hereby permitted shall commence until a scheme of remedial works to treat the areas of shallow coal mine workings to the affected areas have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

The expansions will mean the reception class will increase by 50 per cent from 60 children to 90.

The application was submitted by Walsall Children's Services.

Councillor Carl Creaney, who represents the Willenhall South area, said: "This is very good news that this is moving forward and generally that schools are expanding because we are in desperate need of more places."

Spooktacular fun on Safari

STAFF at West Midland Safari Park are getting ready to host an annual spooky spectacular event and this year there are two new attractions to experience.

The annual, month-long festival at West Midland Safari Park started on Saturday and includes a new adventure named Dino Quest.

Explorers will have to make their way around Land of the Living Dinosaurs, searching for the missing dinosaur.

They must find it before the Mad Scientist, who is also on the hunt to capture the dinosaur.

Also new for 2016 is Chaos at Crocular Castle, a puppet show where families can meet an array of memorable creepy critters and help to save the princess.

Farewell concert for US indie rockers

AMERICAN indie rock band Augustines will be playing in Birmingham on a farewell tour.

The group, which recently released the album This is Your Life, will be in action at The Rainbow Warehouse, Digbeth, on October 20.

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800 jobs axe with Plumb Center firm restructure

PLUMB Center owner Wolseley is set to axe up to 800 jobs as part of a restructuring that will see it shut 80 branches and a distribution centre.

The company is not yet saying which branches face closure. It has Plumb Center outlets in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Brierley Hill, Cannock, Smethwick, Kidderminster and Stafford, as well as a branch of Burdens in West Bromwich. The shake-up will cost the firm £100 million.

Wolseley said last Tuesday: "The closure of around 80 branches and one distribution centre is expected to lead to up to 800 job losses, the impact of which we will minimise through redeployment and attrition as far as possible. The programme is subject to consultation which will commence shortly and is expected to take 90 days."

The group employs 6,000 people in the UK and operates across 750 branches. The firm said that in the UK, which accounts for eight per cent of its profits, the repair, maintenance and improvement markets had declined and growth was 'weak'.

Wolseley said the restructuring, the result of a review, is expected to generate £25 million to £30 million of annual cost savings when complete.

The group made the announcement alongside full-year results, which saw overall revenues rise 4.2 per cent at constant exchange rates to £14.4 billion. Pre-tax profit rose from a total of £508 million to £727 million, driven by the States, where the bulk of its business lies.

Former jailed TV star back

JAILED former West Midlands BBC presenter Ashley Blake is back on the Beeb. Blake was sentenced to two years for wounding a teenager outside his former Sutton Coldfield pub with a 3ft patio umbrella pole in 2009.



Ashley Blake

He was 40 at the time of the incident and was found guilty of wounding a 17-year-old and attempting to pervert the course of justice. But Blake, from Birmingham, who used to present Watchdog and Holiday, returned to host a segment on BBC West Midlands' Inside Out programme last week.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "After his conviction in 2009 Ashley Blake has served his sentence, and the conviction is now spent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Ashley is a very experienced broadcaster. As a freelancer, he is entitled to pitch ideas and offer his services as a presenter or reporter."

Boss admits firm 'let people down'



Nick Varney, after the sentence

ALTON Towers operator Merlin has accepted it 'let people down with devastating consequences' after receiving a £5 million fine for the Smiler rollercoaster crash. Merlin Attractions Operations Ltd was criticised by Judge Michael Chambers QC last week as he ordered bosses to pay up.

He branded the accident a 'catastrophic failure' by the company involving basic health and safety measures, adding the 'obvious shambles of what occurred' could have been easily avoided by a suitable written system to deal with ride faults and a proper risk assessment.

Two teenagers – Vicky Balch, then 19, and Leah Washington, then 17 – each lost a leg in the collision in June last year and three others were seriously injured.

Merlin Chief Executive, Nick Varney, in a statement read outside court, said: "We were always aware we would end up here today facing a substantial penalty, as has been delivered by the court.

"However, Alton Towers, and indeed the wider Merlin Group, are not emotionless corporate entities.

"In this context, the far greater punishment for all of us is knowing that on this occasion we let people down with devastating consequences. It is something we will never forget and it is something we are utterly determined will never be repeated."

Judge Chambers QC said: "The defendant now accepts the prosecution case that the underlying fault was an absence of a structured and considered system not that of individuals' efforts, doing their best within a flawed system.

"This was a needless and avoidable accident in which those injured were fortunate not to have been killed or bled to death."

£5m Smiler fine is no help to us, says mother

ALTON Towers bosses now face huge compensation claims as victims of the Smiler crash branded a £5 million fine 'irrelevant' saying that they cannot move on.

Victim Chandaben Chauhan, aged 50, from Wednesbury, said after Merlin Attractions Operations Ltd was fined: "For what we are struggling with, the fine is not really any help."

She was sat on the second row of the ride alongside her daughters Vanisha, 30, and Meera, 27, when the crash happened – the impact likened to a 90mph car crash.

The carriage smashed into the back of an empty one after engineers at the theme park over-rode a block mechanism which had automatically stopped the ride.

Ms Chauhan was left with internal bleeding and needing a stomach operation.

Reacting to the fine handed out last week at Stafford Crown Court, she said it was immaterial in the context of her family's on-going recovery.

Compensation

The victims, left suspended in the ride 20ft above ground for up to five hours, are now expected to seek civil compensation.

Ms Chauhan said: "The fine is irrelevant. The point of coming here to hear the sentence was for getting one step closer to closure and to the facts.

"For what we are struggling with, the fine is not really any help.

"I have been left with a scar on my stomach and then I have the psychological effects which I am sharing with my daughters."

"Because we are a family we support each other. Our whole support system has just broken down.

"I can't support my daughters and they can't support me. That is what the problem is. I can't see an end to it just yet. I am struggling to get the therapy I need as the funding is just not available. Until now I just didn't have the energy so I was hiding away. I just have to face the music now. It has gone on too long."

The court heard that on the day of the crash in June last year a test carriage had been sent around the ride but had come to rest on the track, unseen by ride staff.

The engineers had overridden a computer system which they believed had halted the ride in error – and sent a full car along to the track into the path of the empty carriage. The kinetic energy involved in the crash was likened to a family car of 1.5 tons colliding at about 90mph.



Smiler crash victim Chandaben Chauhan gives her reaction to the verdict at Stafford Crown court

Attempted robber's jail term is cut

AN 'intoxicated' man who burst into a Birmingham dementia sufferer's home and tried to rob him has had his jail term cut by a third on appeal.

James Charles Doody, aged 27, of no fixed abode, invaded the 78-year-old man's bungalow in Shirley Road, Acocks Green, in October.

The victim suffered from a 'degree of dementia', Mr Justice Irwin told London's Appeal Court, but the pensioner was able to call the police who came rapidly and found Doody still inside the property.

Mr Justice Irwin said he was 'clearly very intoxicated' and hadn't stolen anything before officers arrived.

Doody admitted attempted robbery, two counts of breaching a conditional discharge and was jailed for six years at Birmingham Crown Court on March 3.

Doody had a 'long list of acquisitive crimes', including burglaries, on his record, said Mr Justice Irwin. He had a history of drug abuse but, after sobering up, he was 'clearly remorseful for what he had done'.

Thomas Schofield, for Doody, argued his jail term was far too long and ought to be cut.

He pointed out no weapon had been used and no physical injury caused to the pensioner.

Judges agreed to reduced Doody's jail term from six to four years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Airport's £100m on improvements

BIRMINGHAM Airport will spend £100 million improving facilities, including its baggage processing.

The airport suffered a backlash from passengers over long delays waiting for their baggage during August. Birmingham has seen major growth in recent years with passengers numbers soaring to 11 million a year.

A million more are expected next year as new services are introduced by budget airline Jet2. The improvements will see money spent on self-service check-ins, additional car parking and on air traffic control.

£500 raised for ex-Pics player

A WALSALL football club has raised more than £500 for their former player who tragically died.

Rushall Olympic FC raised £507.50 at their recent home game against Kettering Town in the FA cup for the Daniel Wilkinson Foundation.

Mr Wilkinson, aged 26, suffered a suspected heart attack while playing for non-league side Shaw Lane Aquaforce in Barnsley last month.

A post on the team's website read: "Thanks to everyone in our fantastic football family who have contributed. We will never forget Dan."

Tree debris fear sparks chop call

A WALSALL couple hope a tree they worry could fall onto their house will be chopped down. They live on Sutton Road, close to Queen Mary's Grammar School, and want a horse chestnut tree cut down because they said it has grown 'to almost twice the height of their property and considerably overhangs their property'.

They said they will not sit in their conservatory while it is windy as they fear falling debris and branches could smash through its roof.

X Factor live tour tickets go on sale

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for The X Factor Live Tour 2017 at Birmingham's Genting Arena on February 24. It has been one of the most successful annual arena tours in the UK for the past 12 years.

Tickets for the Genting Arena date are on general sale from 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. Prices are £23.30, £41,86, £62.68, £105.80 plus £2.55 fulfilment fee per order. VIP family tickets also available.

Kraftwerk in Brum gig

GERMAN electronic music legends Kraftwerk are at Birmingham's Symphony Hall next year.

The group's 3D tour rolls in on June 13. Tickets go on sale on Friday at 10am. Kraftwerk originally formed in 1969 and have had a series of hit albums incuding Autobahn.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Check out back yard for Turner art award

GREAT! Summer may now be over, and the nights starting to draw in, but who cares? It's also that time of the year when we can all head down the Big Smoke, roll up at the Tate Modern and admire the entries for the Turner Prize.

I love the Turner Prize, there is something delightfully egalitarian about it.

While all those other fuddy-duddy art competitions require you to be able to do something clever like paint a picture or sculpt a statue, with Turner there is none of that elitism. Never mind talent and all that, have you got a bag of rusty bolts, an old mattress and an empty fag packet? Great, you're in.

The big talking point this year comes from Anthea Hamilton, who wowed the judges with a giant pair of buttocks. The Tate says it brings "a surrealist sensibility to popular culture" and will "seduce the viewer with comic and unexpected combinations of images, materials and words".

Or maybe they are just talking out of their sculpture.

Meanwhile, Michael Dean is nominated for sculptures and installations made from "aesthetically-overlooked materials" like corrugated metal from a shop shutter. And Josephine Pryde presents New Media Express (Baby Wants to Ride), which examines the idea of "seductive qualities of the wider art world." Or a train set to you and me.

Sadly, though, the Black Country is unrepresented, which is a shame. Especially as I see so many potential Turner Prize entries at the bottom of people's gardens every Monday morning. Just before the tatters arrive.

❐❐❐

WE keep being told we face an obesity timebomb. Youngsters spend all day glued to their computers, and not getting enough exercise.

So traditional playground games like tig and British bulldogs are just the sort of thing we should be encouraging, right?

Well, unless you're Tim Cook, headmaster of Hillfort Primary School in Liskeard, Cornwall, who has banned children running from one side of the playground to the other.

Apparently, the idea is to reduce the number of children ending up in the first-aid room. The what? Did they have a first-aid room when you were at school? From what I remember, if you fell over, you sat shame-faced in the corner until the bell and learned to be more careful next time.

Still Mr Cook said he had been 'proactive' – I bet he does 'workshops' as well – by organising activities that don't involve running.

"I left our Year Five class dancing to YMCA just last week," he beamed.

Can't wait to see the new school uniform...

Stunning sunset scenes are captured on camera



The scene in Heath Hayes captured by Louise Harborow

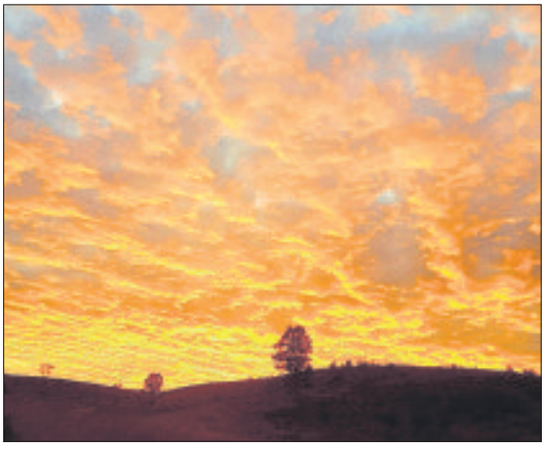


The serene Dudley Rowing Club at Lodge Farm Reservoir

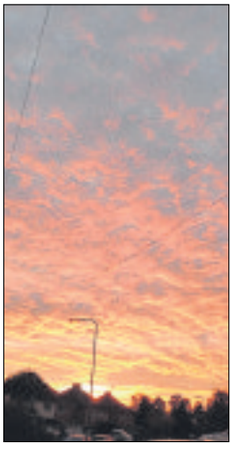


Stuart Cattell's photograph of the sunset over Short Heath

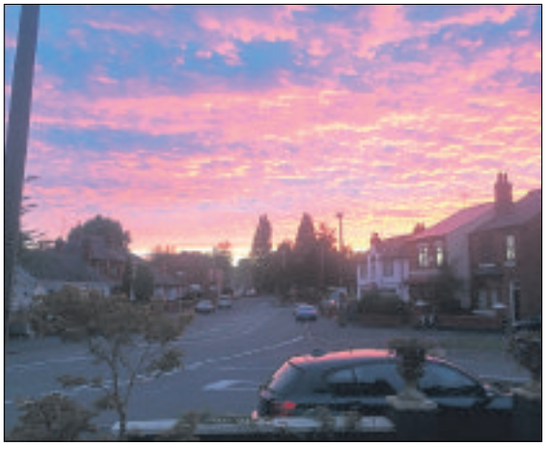
The red sky at night brings much delight



This dramatic shot was captured by bricklayer Glen Farrington



Sue Baugh's Bilbrook scene



Andy Stokes took this shot of the sky above Victoria Park in Tipton

IT was a case of red sky at night, photographers' delight as hundreds seized on the opportunity to snap a picture of stunning skies.

Photographers came out in force to catch a glimpse of the dramatic skies last week. **SIMON STONE** reports

Among the best of them posted online was the one taken by mountain biker Glen Farrington from Milford, Staffordshire, looking toward Stafford.

It was taken using a mobile phone – a Galaxy S7 Edge.

The 41-year-old bricklayer was out with his girlfriend Nicky George when he noticed the jaw-dropping skyline at 7pm last Tuesday,

Mr Farrington, who lives in Cannock, said: "We stopped from our riding and chatted before I looked up and took a picture on the phone.

"I didn't realise how well it had come out until I got home. The reaction I've had online has been quite something."

From fiery red to stunning pink – others were able to witness the dramatic sunset.

Centre

Hundreds of people posted pictures they had taken online following the sunset.

From Tipton in the heart of the Black Country, to the centre of Birmingham and Heath Hayes near Cannock, the red skyline touched the whole region. Pictures also showed the stunning sunset above Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, the home of Dudley Rowing Club, and in Short Heath in Willenhall.

The old saying 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight' rang true, as clouds cleared for a dry next day.

A red sky at night often means fair weather is generally heading toward the country. It is caused by dust and small particles trapped in the atmosphere by high pressure.



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I'm obviously one of the 'rabble!'

I'M a pensioner, six months from my 70th birthday. I'm a churchwarden. I ended my working life as a university lecturer.

Perhaps I can be excused for some bemusement when I discover from your leading article on September 16, that I am a member of a 'rabble' and guilty of 'bullying'. That's because I am a supporter of Jeremy Corbyn.

Apparently Corbyn has fallen out with some local Members of Parliament. Pat McFadden? Hmmm, yes, Corbyn sacked him from the front bench when he asked David Cameron to agree with a travesty of Corbyn's views. It's hard to see any leader of any party behaving differently.

The most difficult case is that of Tom Watson. I voted last year for Corbyn as leader and Watson as deputy. The scale of their victories indicated that I must have been one of at least tens of thousands of people who cast their votes for the two men. What are we now to make of Watson seemingly seeking to undermine Corbyn?

ALAN T HARRISON
Walsall

Emmanuel School is among best

REGARDING the Ofsted report of Emmanuel School, there is no doubt that there is room for improvement, but Ofsted seems unable to accept that good results can be attained in unorthodox and innovative ways.

The GCSE results speak for themselves; they were only topped by the local grammar schools, with twice as many pupils attaining the international baccalaureate than the Walsall average, and Ofsted also noted "that the longer secondary pupils are in school, the more their attainment improves".

With small class sizes each pupil receives tailored support. Ofsted summarised by saying "relationships between adults and pupils and between pupils themselves are excellent" and "promote a positive learning environment".

I know I am biased. I had four children going through the school myself; but the fact is that they are all happy wholesome individuals doing well in red-brick universities and beyond.

MARTIN VREUGDENHIL
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Walsall Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

No point in trying to be an opposition

BLAKENALL Ward Councillor Ian Robertson, seemingly on behalf of his Walsall Labour Group seems to be offering the people of Walsall a choice between council tax rises of 57 per cent over the next two years or yet further massive cuts to council services.

He intimates further cuts, such as yet another reduction to the bin service, further cuts to street sweeping and grass cutting, and no doubt a great deal more cuts besides.

The change from a Conservative controlled council to a Labour controlled council has demonstrated that it has made no difference whatsoever. Despite the much-welcomed Labour rhetoric nationally about an alternative to austerity, Labour councils across the country, including Walsall, are able and willing to wield the axe to council services and bring about the maximum increases possible in council tax at the same time.

It is now time for Labour councils to use their powers and influence to fight these cuts rather than implementing them. By refusing to carry out the 'dirty work' of the Government, something would have to change very rapidly. If they claim to have no alternative but to execute the policies of the political party which they purport to oppose, what is the point of them being there?

PETE SMITH
Blakenall ward resident
and former Councillor

War project call for help

ALDRIDGE Great War Project is a voluntary community group which is currently researching men and women who lived, or were born, in Aldridge and may have served in the First World War or served in one of the military hospitals.

We hope to identify every person from Aldridge who served in the First World War, with the aim of recording their stories in a non-profit full colour hardback book to be published in 2018. At the moment 400 men and women have been identified but we are sure there are more to be found.

If anyone can contribute any information, photographs or documents relating to Aldridge people please contact Aldridge Great War Project at aldridgegwp@outlook.com or write to us at 270 Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, WS9 8HB.

KAREN ROSS
Aldridge Great War Project

Get rid of windbags

SO MPs Winnick and Spellar are appalled at what they perceive as undemocratic – the possible removal of 50 of their colleagues from the House of Commons.

If only the same could happen at the other place, and also at Walsall Council.

To rid us of a cabal of self-important windbags who are fluent in the terminology of inexactitude, (to paraphrase a famous quote by Winston Churchill), would, in my opinion, be a great service.

ALLAN SAVAGE
Willenhall

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West Brom in £5,000 hospice donation



West Brom's Jas Thiara, David Mottram, Sharon White and Lorraine Standring, branch manager

A WALSALL hospice which provides medical and nursing care for people with life-limiting illnesses has received a £5,000 donation from regional building society the West Brom.

The grant to St Giles Walsall Hospice was instigated by a request from David Mottram, a customer at the Society's Walsall branch.

It will help provide patients with the best care and treatment, while also assisting with the hospice's day-to-day running costs.

Sharon White, fundraising manager at St Giles Walsall Hospice, said: "This is a fantastic gesture from the West Brom and a huge boost to everyone at St Giles. David made the initial contact to staff at the building society after we provided care for his mother, Alma Mottram.

"It's gone on from there and we can't thank David and the West Brom enough for their support. It's wonderful to see a significant business supporting local charities in this way."

St Giles Walsall Hospice, located on Goscote Lane, has centre of excellence status and its Palliative Care Centre includes 12 in-patient beds.

The charity has additional hospice premises in Whittington, Uttoxeter and Sutton Coldfield covering the wider Midlands region, and also provides specialist care in patients' homes.

The West Brom's donation was made through the Mercian Community Trust, a partnership between the society and the Diocese of Lichfield to support community groups and charitable causes.

Jim King, communications manager for the West Brom, said: "Many people are unfortunately touched by life-limiting illnesses at some stage, either directly themselves or through a family member or close friend. The support and care from organisations such as St Giles Hospice is invaluable in terms of helping those affected to cope."

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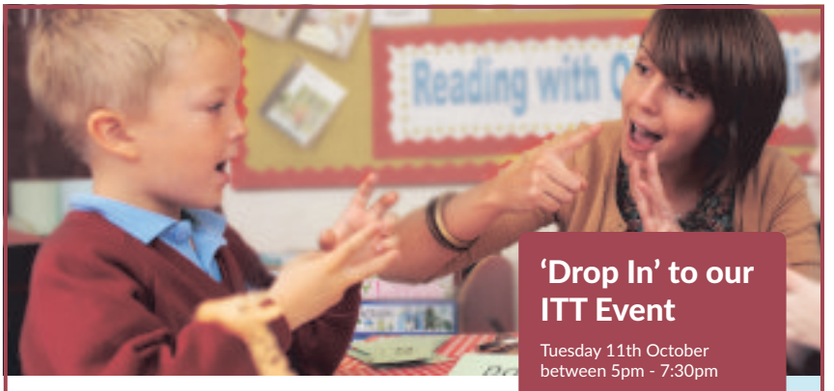


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Ryders Hayes Teaching School

Owen shaves the day for Stephen's charity

A 10-year-old schoolboy braved the shave and whipped off his blond locks to raise funds in memory of the inspirational Stephen Sutton.

Owen Perks, from Wolverhampton, decided he wanted to go bald for a good cause after speaking with Walsall fundraiser Jag Poselay about a charity event to be held in memory of Stephen Sutton for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The pair have known each other since Owen was four years old, through his mother Rachel, and when the youngster heard about the fundraising event, which took place at Bloxwich Memorial Club, he wanted to contribute towards the eventual sum.

The Rakegate Primary School pupil's efforts brought in more than £300, with more to come as he aims to hit a £500 target.

Inspired

The shave took place at the Tobias Gentleman's Barbershop on Station Street, Walsall.

Mr Poselay said: "Owen is really inspired by the charity work that I do. When he grows up he wants to work with charities and help those in need, so he is getting off to a great start.

"He came up with this idea totally by himself.

"We had to wait for approval from his mother first, she was a bit against the idea because he has always had this beautiful long hair, which she wanted him to keep.

"He has been so excited about this in the lead-up to the big day and I have to say I think the new look suits him.

"It was a wonderful day for everyone and I would like to thank Lisa, the manager at Tobias, for her hard work and kind donation of £100 towards Owen's fundraising total."



Thumbs-up before the new look



Owen Perks, after his close shave

Reduction in use of powers

WALSALL Council's use of investigatory powers to target criminals has plummeted to just three instances in 12 months - compared to 67 times four years ago.

A report reveals the authority has exercised the controversial RIPA - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act – on three occasions between April 1 2015 and March 31 this year – all for trading standards cases. The powers can also be used to build cases against suspected benefit cheats and people committing anti-social behaviour. The council has drastically reduced its right to exercise RIPA in recent years with cases falling from 67 in 2011/12, to 31 the following year, eight in the period after and five in 2014/15.

Councillor Keith Chambers , said: "On one level it is a good news story. Some of the responsibility is now undertaken by Walsall Housing Group. But those who drop litter or fly-tip should not take comfort from this because we are still watching them."

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Commercial feature

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We have large stocks of many of the leading brands and are a wholesaler who supplies some products to independent retailers in the area, and we have our own in-house facility for marble and an established direct supply from Asia means middle wholesalers can be cut out from the supply chain so the savings can be passed on to our customers.

The large stocks mean that a lot of products are always available for you to take away, and we are also able to source anything in the industry that we currently don't already stock, whatever you the customer wants, we are proud to be able to deliver.

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Anthony said: "Why pay showroom prices? when you can pay Fireside Factory prices. We know by the volume of business we do, and the recommendations we receive, that our prices, service and quality of product beat all of our competitors.''

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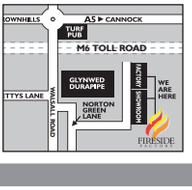


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With 350 stalls there are so many ideas for your Christmas list



Chance to sample different tastes

COMPETITION

It's a cracker so don't miss festive show

JOIN in the fun for our 21st year at the fabulous Festive Gift Fair. The biggest and best Christmas shopping fair returns to the NEC for four days from November 10-13.

And you could be there for free as the Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to offer 70 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The run up to Christmas Day involves a lot of planning and the hardest, and often most time consuming, part is buying the presents, so get it all done in one day at the Festive Gift Fair and make it fun!

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When your bags are full, you can drop them off at the Present Creche and continue to shop, stop for a bite to eat and enjoy all the great entertainment.

There will be 350 stalls overflowing with fabulous decorations for the home and present ideas for all – from babies to teenagers, parents to grandparents, for him, for her and even the pets!

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For more information and ticket prices visit www.festivegiftfair.co.uk

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Where can you leave your bags?

Send answers on postcard with name, address and phone number to Gift Fair Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11. Closing date: Thursday, October 13. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

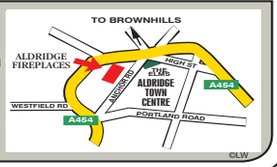
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Private firm hired to target problems

A PRIVATE firm has been hired by Walsall Council to get tough on fly-tipping and dog fouling, dishing out £80 on-the-spot fines for offenders.

3GS – Ethical Environmental Enforcement – have been taking to the streets of Walsall since last week carrying out covert checks.

The same firm handed out £8,000 worth of fines in three weeks to more than 100 people when it was drafted in by Blackpool Council last month.

The Basingstoke-based firm has been brought in for six months at a projected net cost of £3,400. The company is not renowned for taking matters lightly.

As well as carrying out inconspicuous investigations officers will be providing a visible presence patrolling the streets, parks and open spaces. They will have legal powers to stop anyone committing an environmental crime and will request their name, address and proof of identity.

Anyone refusing to be co-operative can be prosecuted under the Environmental Protection Act which can result in a £1,000 fine from magistrates. Any footage capturing alleged offenders will be shared with police to identify culprits.

Earlier this month the council stated around 30 tons of rubbish were dumped in the borough every week costing in the region of £120,000 a year to clean it up.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Ian Jones, responsible for Clean and Green on the authority, said: "When we are being forced by the Westminster Government to slash a further £100 million from our budgets over the next four years the last thing we need is to be shelling out hundreds of thousands of pounds each year to clean up after folk who have no respect for the place in which they live."

By Carl Jackson

Corbyn told of carers' challenges



Walsall mother Sara Meredith with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn during the annual Labour Party Conference

A WALSALL mother made a heart wrenching plea to politicians regarding the challenges faced by carers during the annual Labour party conference.

Sara Meredith, of Brownhills, told delegates about the harrowing situations parents and carers of severely disabled children face every day. Her speech highlighted the devastating effect the government cuts are having to services and support for disabled children and their families.

She also told stories of how a mother had been told by a social worker that they could not help her until she 'broke', another mother who told her about respite care being cut from two hours to 45 minutes, leaving her to make the choice between eating, washing or spending time with her other children.

Speaking to delegates at the conference, she said: "In Walsall the government is forcing us to make nearly £100 million in cuts over the next few years.

"I tell you this. The scale of the cuts inflicted on us by Tory austerity will scar the parents of our most vulnerable children."

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£350k paid out to crime chief after leaving job

A TOP West Midlands crime boss received more than £350,000 as part of a bumper pay-off after leaving her job.

Jacky Courtney, left her role as chief executive of the Office of the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner on April 30 last year as part of a shake-up following the election of David Jamieson.

Mrs Courtney, who served as chief executive to the old West Midlands Police Authority for seven years, received a £74,600 'loss of office' payment as well as a £278,900 contribution to her pension pot. Additionally she was paid £11,500 in salary and fees for approximately one month's work and received £500 worth of benefits to total just over £365,000.



Mrs Courtney

As chief executive she was paid £109,300 and had an Audi company car. She could not be directly contacted for comment.

The PCC's publicly available accounts state Mrs Courtney 'retired' but it is understood she was made redundant in a restructure by Mr Jamieson. Jonathan Jardine replaced Mrs Courtney as chief executive on a salary of £79,200 and no company car.

A PCC spokesman said: "The office the PCC inherited was from the bloated and unaccountable days of the police authority, where some members of staff were paid very high salaries and everyone got first class travel. But since the election of the police and crime commissioner in 2014, things have changed. The office has been reorganised and we now work in a more streamlined, accountable and effective way.

"It is worth remembering that most of the amount was pension allocation. In addition, thanks to the changes we've already made, we are making savings of £300,000 a year on those old police authority days and should have paid for these costs within two years."

TV duo at store opening



Stephen Webb and Chris Steed, from Gogglebox with sales colleague Chris Geary at the new-look Currys PC World, Wednesbury

THEY spend most of their time glued to the box, so it was apt that two stars of Gogglebox officially opened the new TV department in a £2.7million megastore.

The store – which has combined Currys, PC World and Carphone Warehouse into one unit – has opened its doors at Wednesbury's Junction 9 Retail Park.

And Stephen Webb and Chris Steed joined the founder of Dixons, Lord Harold Stanley Kalms, in the grand opening.

Store Director Richard Kirk said: "We had Lord Kalms open up the whole store and Chris and Stephen opening up the TV department, as they are from Gogglebox."

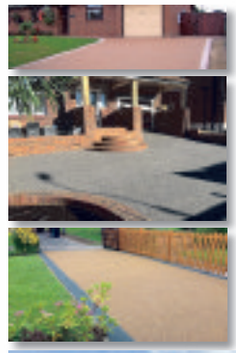
Dixons owns the Currys, PC World and Carphone Warehouse brands. Richard added: "Dixons has got a large history in this area and we are very proud of that."

The revamped store has 140 staff and features a range of specialist areas inside – including a virtual reality studio; sections for Apple, Panasomic, LG and a repair centre.

Richard said the launch event was the biggest ever for the company. "Over Friday and Saturday, we had 20,000 customers through the doors," he said.

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This image taken in 1893 shows how they built a dam with bricks and wooden slats



Removing a bend in the River Rea, part of the storm drain



Amazing brickwork of a two-foot-high tunnel linking up to the city centre storm drain

Underground secrets of Victorian expertise



Looking towards MacDonald Street bridge in 1893



Photographer Michael Scott lights up one of the tunnels

THESE eerie photos show the hidden Victorian underworld that lies beneath the bustling streets of Birmingham.

The storm drains were built in the 19th century, with pictures documenting repairs to the drains in 1893 using wooden blocks.

Photographer Michael Scott, from Birmingham, explored the drains himself after seeing some pictures online.

The 32-year-old said: "It's amazing to go somewhere so central in a city and be totally alone – bar the occasional rat. It really is a hidden Victorian underworld." But the drains aren't always so peaceful. He said: "It is very dangerous and you have to be very careful of the weather.

"Ideally it needs to not have rained at least four days prior to you going, and most importantly it needs to be forecast clear and dry on the day you go down.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Judith Hawkins

"Even then, you need to know where the access ladders are. The issue is you are in a storm drain, and the main use of the drain is to take all the rain water away from the streets in the quickest way possible. Even if it just drizzles, the water rises and it rises fast."

Local historian Professor Carl Chinn MBE, is among those who is fascinated to see the photos of a previously little seen side of Brum's past. He said: "People always talk about the railways, but this was another major achievement of Victorian engineering. It was the result of the public health movement in the late 19th Century, as people became more aware of water-borne diseases. Cities like Birmingham started to bring in fresh water, and there is a reason why the Chamberlain memorial in Birmingham is a fountain, because he was pivotal to this."

Joseph Chamberlain was elected town councillor in November 1869, and rose to become Mayor in 1873, during which he tackled fears over Birmingham's water supply, which was described as a danger to public health.

Approximately half of the city's population relied upon well water, but this was polluted by sewage.

Determined to stop the rising death rate from contagious diseases in the poorest parts of the city, in January 1876 Chamberlain forcibly purchased Birmingham's waterworks for a combined sum of £1,350,000, creating Birmingham Corporation Water Department.

By this time he was representing the city in Parliament, and he declared to a House of Commons Committee that: "We have not the slightest intention of making profit. We shall get our profit indirectly in the comfort of the town and in the health of the inhabitants."

He also identified the Elan Valley in Powys, Wales, as a potential source of clean water for the city.



The drain construction in 1893 looking towards Vaughton Street South

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The new £1.9 million Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Suite, installed at Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, has been officially opened by Wolverhampton City Mayor, Councillor Barry Findlay, with other VIP guests including the Mayoress and Wolves FC midfielder Lee Evans in attendance.

The hospital in Tettenhall is the medical partner of Wolverhampton Wanderers and the club is pleased to have this facility 'on their doorstep'.

The 1.5 teslar Ingenia MRI scanner from Philips offers consistent high quality images, improved comfort for patients and gives the hospital a full range of diagnostic equipment on site, available six days a week.



From left, Radiology manager, Phoebe Cartwright, mayoress Margaret Findlay, mayor, Barry Findlay and hospital director Karen Pattison



The 1.5T digital broadband MRI scanner

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Easy access allows hospital staff to diagnose illness sooner and the digital broadband MR scanner to exactly pinpoint injuries. Karen Pattison, hospital director, comments: "High quality imaging is so very important for our doctors and consultants to make decisions on treatment.

"The scanner will be used to help diagnose a number of conditions, from strokes, heart conditions, arthritis and prostate cancer through to sports injuries."

Phoebe Cartwright, Radiology Manager at Nuffield Health Wolverhampton says: "Having the MR scanner onsite is great news for our patients. Before the scanner was installed, patients accessed MRI scans through a mobile service, which was available on certain days of the week. Now that we have our MRI scanner installed permanently on site, it can be used six days a week, giving patients much more flexibility when booking appointments and offer more complex scans in a shorter timeframe."

Phil Hayward, head of the medical department at Wolves comments: "The Wolves medical department is delighted to have set up an arrangement with Nuffield Health Wolverhampton which allows us six-day a week access to the MRI services at the hospital.

"The excellent level of service and high degree of professionalism that Nuffield Health offers has streamlined our diagnostics, allowing us access to high quality imaging literally on our doorstep."

I The hospital on Wood Road, Tettenhall, is one of 31 hospitals nationwide in the not-for-profit Nuffield Health group. The new MRI suite at the Wolverhampton Hospital Radiology Department forms part of Nuffield Health's national investment programme, to better meet the needs of patients.

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Big charity splash raises £5,000 for young Tommy



The swimathon team that completed a swim the length of the English Channel

A SWIMATHON raised money for prosthetic legs for a young boy from Cheslyn Hay who contracted meningitis.

Tommy Brown was given only a five per cent chance of survival after contracting the B strain of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia.

But the youngster, now aged four, defied the odds, although he had to undergo multiple amputation.

To help raise money to pay for his prosthetic legs to help him walk, dozens of friends and family took part in a swimming challenge at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre. A group swam the length of the English channel – equivalent to 21 miles – and Tommy even got in the pool at the end himself.

Organiser Craig Duhamel helped plan the event after his daughter Lily said she wanted to do something to help him.

He said: "On the day, we ended up with 35 amazing people and originally tried to raise £1,000. We smashed that within two days and we're over £5,000 now."

To donate towards Tommy's fund go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/swimfortommy



Tommy Brown defied the odds

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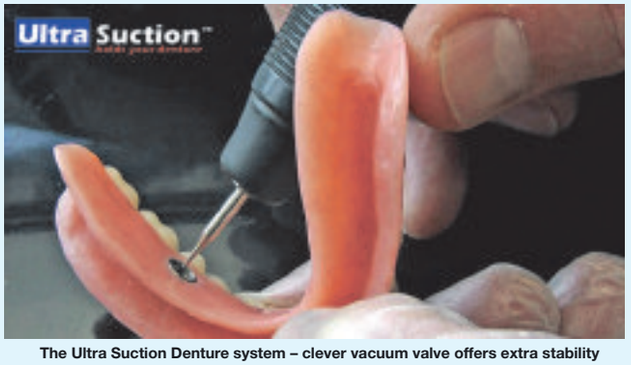
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The Ultra Suction Denture system – clever vacuum valve offers extra stability

Five years on – living with the Ultra Suction Solution

AFRAID to laugh in public and perpetually having trouble eating, Jenny admits she left it far too long before sorting out some new dentures.

Jenny (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous, I was using so much on the lower denture, but every time I ate food the denture would become loose. I was fighting a losing battle; all the fixative would be gone by the end of the meal," she recalls.

'Stickability'

Aware that things were only going to get worse, she found her way to the Denture Clinic and booked in to see Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng).

"Dentures have to work incredibly hard and if there's friction on the soft tissues chewing efficiency is massively decreased," says Steven.

Jenny takes up the story: "I wear full dentures and the lower was particularly troublesome and would move about no matter what food I ate.

"It was hopeless really. Chewing crusty bread, eating apples and steaks were totally out of the question. I really didn't want to go through the surgical procedure of having an implant retained denture and was offered what was then the new Suction Dentures."

It's now been five years since the prescription was made in the Denture Clinic's on-site laboratory.

"One of the first patients we prescribed the non-invasive Ultra Suction Dentures that hit the UK market from New Zealand, 'Jenny' is still enjoying excellent outcomes from the system."

Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth."

How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking. The device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures.

The Ultra Suction Denture system is not suitable for everyone, but for those with the right kind of gum contours, a great option to add another level of 'stickability'.

Secure, comfortable and natural looking, these prosthetics attract the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic.

FOR some it's the final chance of a solution, desperate for help as too many failing teeth have eroded confidence and any quality of life. Others have come at their wits' end with unstable dentures and still more as referrals from other practitioners. How ever they arrive at Dudley's North Street Dental and Implant Clinic, central to many of their solutions is this man (right) dental implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL).



IT'S hard to imagine after losing natural teeth, things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is acknowledged as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of native teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now recognised as a mourning process. In a recent edition of the British Dental Nurses' Journal it highlights the stages of bereavement.

We all know that tooth loss can impact on our choices of food and the ability to chew properly. But less 'visible' and perhaps more significant, is the way teeth can compromise social interaction. Losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can stop us living life spontaneously.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss. It can be embarrassing, painful and erode self-esteem.

Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says: "We see almost on a weekly basis in our clinics that failing teeth – both natural and dentures – can have a hugely corrosive effect on lifestyles."

Solutions without using dental implants have been around for a long time – indeed, bridges, full dentures and partial dentures still offer excellent options.

Adds Steven: "If the patient is suitable, and few are not, dental implants whether for single or multiple teeth replacement, or to replace a complete arch of teeth, can offer long-term solutions and generally very predictable clinical outcomes."

Surgical skills

For those with denture stabilisation issues, implants can provide secure anchor points with press-stud like abutments that are guaranteed to hold an over-denture in place.

"Once dentures lose their initial harmonious fit, the process of bone erosion beneath the gums is accelerated as the prosthetic is perpetually dislodged by the processes of speaking and eating. Over time the problems of sore spots and the denture succumbing to the forces created in the mouth by chewing and speaking become more acute.

"Our implant retained dentures have a bite comparable to natural teeth. look stunning, appear as natural teeth and deliver the patient a dental therapy where we can categorically guarantee an end to denture stabilisation issues," adds Steven.

All denture prescriptions at the clinic are hand-crafted on site in the laboratory using only premium quality materials and state-of-the art production.

With more than 25 years' experience placing implants, Owain was in the vanguard of UK implant therapy while working as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Adds Steven: "We're incredibly fortunate to have someone of Owain's professional stature working with us. He's innovative, accessible, everything you'd expect of a dentist with such advanced surgical skills . . . and a genuinely nice guy to meet."

Complex surgical cases, general dentistry and not least, the patients who require full mouth restorations, fall under his clinical remit.

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Former midwife's engaging smile is reborn

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about her smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Unstable

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her fist tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't have done more to save her teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.



New smile – Vicky Ball

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicky says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable," she said.

A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic.

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK), Dip Imp Dent (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial features. Says Vicki,"From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth."

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Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show



Monday to Saturday, various
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Visit **www.atgtickets.com/birmingham**

Petula Clark



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CLUBBING

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The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Uprawr
Tomorrow, free entry
The Asylum, Birmingham,
B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Garage Gathering
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Civicd Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RD.
Call 0870 320 7000

25 Years of DJ MAG – Jamie Jones & The Martinez Brothers at The Rainbow Venues
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Cellar Door, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Red Card Student Night
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Walkabout Inn Birmingham,
B1 2DS. Call 0121 632 5712

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Detroit Soul
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The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Ruts DC
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The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Blues Run The Game
Mon, £2 - £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Lisa Mills
Wed, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Food Fighterz
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Joe Brown Solo Show – Just Joe. Plus Special Guest Henry Gross
Tonight,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

ELO Again – A Night of ELO
Tomorrow, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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The Wedding Present
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Top Ten Beatles
Tomorrow, £15
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Aussie Wrecking Crew Tour 2016
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Talon (Eagles tribute)
Sun, £17.50 - £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Goo Goo Dolls
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Slam Cartel
Thu, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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Sing Political!
Wed,
The Prince of Wales Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

CLASSICAL

Sacconi Quartet with Robert Plane: Bromsgrove Concerts
Tonight, £19
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jean-Michel Jarre
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Gospel Central
Wed,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
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POP

Petula Clark From Now On Tour
Mon,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
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Level 42 – Sirens II Tour 2016
Tue, £28
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RAP & RNB

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FESTIVALS

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The RoadHouse Birmingham,
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COMEDY

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The Impney Comedy Night: Roy Walker
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Queer'Say
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Jimmy Carr – The Best of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour
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Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Kerry Godliman – Stick or Twist
Tomorrow,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
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Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational
Tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277
and
Sun and Wed,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Al Murray – Lets Go Backwards Together
Sun,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
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BBC Radio 4's Mitch Benn at the Cheeky Monkey comedy club, Moseley, Birmingham
Tue,
The Dark Horse Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8JP.
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Board Game Smackdown – as part of the Birmingham Comedy Festival 2016
Wed,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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Cloaks
Wed, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
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Patrick Monahan: That 80's Show
The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Rich Hall
Thu, £17
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
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THEATRE

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Strictly Musicals
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Roxy Magic
Tonight - tomorrow, £12 - £14
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond the Water's Edge
Sun,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 – The Musical
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Carmen – Russian State Opera
Sun,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jane McDonald
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Bardolph's Box
Tue,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
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Whitney – Queen of the Night
Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
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All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
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New play from War Horse author



A dazzling jitterbug scene from 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, which is based on a real wartime incident

A STORY about a hushed-up D-Day training disaster, created by the writer of War Horse, will be staged at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 15.

The play, 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, has been adapted by Michael Morpurgo and Emma Rice from Morpurgo's own book of the same name.

The production enjoyed acclaimed reviews during a season at London's The Globe and is now on the road for its first UK tour. It tells the little-known story of an ill-fated rehearsal of the D-Day landings, when 946 people were killed during Operation Tiger at Slapton Sands in Devon in 1944.

In the lead role of youngster Lilly Treganza is Katy Owen, who appeared in Kneehigh's Rebecca at Birmingham Rep last year and recently as Puck in the Globe's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Lily Tregenza, her family and her cat Tips are trying to live a normal village life in the midst of the Second World War.

Rescue

After being inundated with evacuees from London, village life is halted as American GIs arrive to prepare for the D-Day landings. Lily and her family are moved away from Slapton but Tips gets left behind. Lily sets out to rescue her cat accompanied by townie friend Barry and a black American GI Adolphus 'Adi' T Madison.

It feels like it couldn't get any worse for Lily and her family, but then the Germans ambush the training fleet with disastrous results for the Allied troops.

Morpurgo said: "There is no theatre company that tells stories more imaginatively, more unexpectedly, than Kneehigh. 946 is based on historical events that took place in and around Slapton as the Americans trained for the landings in France.

"I have witnessed first-hand the way Kneehigh weaves a tale and makes it live on stage for us. For my story to play a part in this is simply a joy."



Blood and tears show

LEGENDARY Liverpool musical drama Blood Brothers is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome for a fortnight's run with Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, the mother of ill-fated twins in this much-loved tearjerker.

Written by Willy Russell, Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End over 24 years, one of only three musicals ever to achieve that milestone.

The show tells the story of twin boys separated at birth, only to be reunited by a twist of fate and a mother's secret.

The memorable score includes A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged hit Tell Me It's Not True.

Lyn Paul, who found fame in the 1970s as a member of chart-topping pop group the New Seekers, returns to the role she played many times in the West End, right up the show's final performances at the Phoenix Theatre four years ago.

She also featured in Bill Kenwright's tour of Cabaret as Fräulein Schneider with Will Young, which came to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 2013.

Blood Brothers is at the Hippodrome from Monday to October 22.

Arena spectacular from synth master

A SPECTACLE for the eyes and an audio treat for the ears is anticipated when French electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre showcases his Electronica albums at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday.

Since his first concert in 1979 celebrating Bastille Day, Jarre's concert history has been unprecedented. He has set and broken World records including one for an audience of 2.5 million at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and for 3.5 million in Moscow. Expect a burst of Oxygene too.

Meanwhile, German synth trailblazers Kraftwerk have announced a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall for June 13.

Punk veterans and indie rock favourites

IF you're in a rut and you want to get out of it – check out punk-reggae veterans Ruts DC at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). The Ruts were one of the fiercest political punk bands on the front line of protests in the 1970s, reinventing themselves as Ruts DC after the death of frontman Malcolm Owen in 1980. Featuring original bass player John 'Segs' Jennings and drummer Dave Ruffy – guitarist Paul Fox died in 2007 – the band has upped the reggae content.

Top 1980s indie outfit The Wedding Present, fronted by David Gedge, play the Slade Rooms on Saturday.

Weller's band in Hare & Hounds gig

KEY gigs in Brum include former Husker Du frontman Bob Mould in support of his Patch The Sky album at the O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

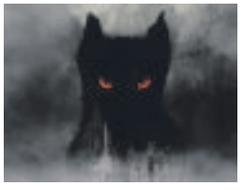
On Saturday Kate Jackson, ex-Long Blondes, performs songs from solo debut British Road Movies with new band The Wrong Moves at The Rainbow's Mama Roux venue in Digbeth.

Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock and other members of Paul Weller's band play as The Songbook Collective at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday. Following the release of single Lose Control, Leeds outfit Pigeon Detectives play The Sunflower Lounge on Wednesday.

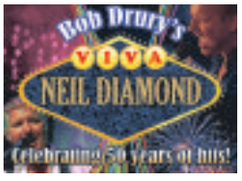
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CHOICE



Boy George

Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George revisits his teenage years. While history may remember the 1970s as being marked by strikes, poverty and civil dischord, the singer reveals that – for the young George O'Dowd – the decade was the beginning of his musical, social and sexual coming-of-age. He discusses how sexual repression and disenfranchisement, along with the advent of glam rock, disco and punk, gave rise to the flamboyant persona he would later unleash on the world, via Culture Club's memorable first appearance on Top of the Pops in 1982.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) **3.20 Film:** Shrek the Third. (2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz. **4.45** Can't Touch This. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkleman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirited effort.

8.50 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, plus a performance by the Shires.

9.40 Casualty. Robyn's plans are thwarted when her ailing sweetheart Glen's health takes a turn for the worse. Meanwhile, Dylan's clinical skills are put to the test.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: They Flew Alone. (1942) **8.10 Film:** Evening. (2007) **10.00** Miniature Britain. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Behind the scenes at the State Opening of Parliament, and a look at how Labour and Conservative MPs conspire together to thwart their party whips. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)

8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. New series. The historian examines Britain's enduring fascination with murder, beginning by exploring how stories of notorious killings entertained the public.

9.00 Artsnight: Michael Palin Meets Jan Morris. Michael Palin talks to Jan Morris, who has spent most of her 90 years writing about far-off places, after shooting to fame as part of the team that conquered Everest in 1953.

9.30 Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia. The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George explains how the social dischord and sexual politics of the 1970s informed the development of his pop persona.

10.35 Film: Cabaret. (1972) A flighty nightclub singer in 1930s Berlin is drawn into a love triangle with a sensitive would-be English writer and an aristocratic German, as the Nazi party grows in might and the country heads inexorably toward war. Oscar-winning musical directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, starring Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Michael York and Helmut Griem.

12.30 Film: Marnie. (1964) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.30** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. England v Malta (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.15 ITV News; Weather.

7.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. (R)

8.00 The X Factor. Thousands of aspiring pop stars turned up at the auditions, 120 battled it out at boot camp and, after the drama of the six-chair challenge, the best of those made it through to the judges' houses. Now the competition really begins as the final 12 perform live for the judges and millions of viewers at home. Each of them will be hoping they have what it takes to make an impression and stay on the show right up to the final just before Christmas. Simon Cowell is mentoring the girls' category, Louis Walsh has the groups, Nicole Scherzinger looks after the boys, while Sharon Osbourne has the over-25s. Hosted by Dermot O'Leary.

10.00 Newzoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation, with impressionists Jon Culshaw, Debra Stephenson, Lewis Macleod and Simon Greenall. Last in the series.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell, comedians Jack Whitehall and Alan Carr, and Whiplash star Miles Teller.

11.30 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley introduces action from England v Malta at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate continued his short stint in charge of the Three Lions.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Gillette World Sport. **6.35** Motor Sport: GT Academy. **7.05** Triathlon: Vitoria-Gasteiz. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Simpsons. (R) **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **12.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket and York. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tom and Danielle Raffield, whose lifelong passion has been steam-bending wood. They've used the technique to create extraordinary furniture and lighting, but now plan to use it on a larger scale. In an attempt to escape the confines of their tiny gamekeeper's lodge, they have decided to build a wavy wooden house in South Cornwall, completed with curved cladding, twisted furniture and interior walls covered with weathered timber. With a £100,000 budget, the pair have decided to do a lot of the building themselves, and Kevin is on hand to discover whether they're up to the challenge. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Toni Herridge explores the Jurassic Coast of Devon and Dorset, walking from the 150-million-year-old cliffs of Kimmeridge at its eastern end, back through time to the even older red cliffs of Budleigh Salterton, to reveal why the coast is packed with world-class fossils. Along the way she encounters the biggest sea predator ever to have lived and a global disaster that nearly destroyed life on our planet. Last in the series.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jessica Hynes and guest captain David Walliams take on Jon Richardson and Rhod Gilbert.

10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird.

12.00 Film: Good Morning, Vietnam. (1987) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.00** FIA Formula E: Season Preview. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.55** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.55** 5 News Weekend. **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 The NCIS Movie: Enemies Exposed. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. The agents discover he is being targeted by terrorists who have hijacked a shipment of advanced weapons from the army. Feature-length episode of the drama, guest starring TJ Ramini and Michael Nouri, with Cote de Pablo and Michael Weatherly. (R)

7.45 NCIS: New Orleans. Mardi Gras arrives in New Orleans, and Pride plans to mark the occasion by opening his bar to the public. However, festivities are put on immediate hold for the team when a US Marine is murdered at the hotel where Mayor Hamilton is holding his own party. As the agents head to the venue to investigate, they realise both Hamilton and Pride have disappeared. What follows is a race to locate the pair before they fall victim to their unknown kidnapper's brutal plans.

8.40 NCIS: New Orleans. The team searches for a soldier believed to be a prisoner of war in Afghanistan, when his prints are found in a crime scene.

9.35 Gotham. Gordon and Bullock track down a vigilante balloon seller responsible for the death of a corrupt businessman, and Oswald Cobblepot returns to Gotham. (R)

10.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

11.30 Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV is helping to bring criminals using weapons to justice. (R)

11.55 Access.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **9.00** Beck: The Last Day **10.30** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **11.30** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.05** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **3.05** The Good Old Days **3.50** Close

ITV2

12.30 The Xtra Factor Live **1.30** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.00 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.50 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55 Film:** The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15 Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **12.05 Film:** Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **1.40** Inspector Morse **4.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

2.35 British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.35** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.10 Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **7.00** Fierce **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15 Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

11.05 How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Contraband (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** Rude(ish) Tube **4.25** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** The Train (1964) **5.25** Vice Versa (1988) **7.20** Vehicle 19 (2013) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** The Final Destination (2009) **12.45** Lesson of Evil (2012) **3.25** Close

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CHOICE



Wild West: America's Great Frontier
(BBC2, 8pm)

New series. Documentary exploring the history and geography of America's deserts, canyons and wilderness, exploring the lives of the people and animals that have found ways to thrive and prosper in these brutally inhospitable conditions. The first programme examines the agricultural traditions of the Hopi Native American tribe in northeastern Arizona, as well as exploring the strategies used by a variety of wildlife, including mustangs, coyotes and desert tortoises, to survive in these demanding environments.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.00** Lifeline. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. A look at how rivers and waterways have shaped our landscape. Matt Baker meets a writer inspired by the Thames Estuary and an artist whose work is made from flotsam brought in on the tide. Naomi Wilkinson takes a trip down Britain's oldest shipping canal, Adam Henson visits one of the country's last traditional country fairs, Sean Fletcher discovers how a landfill site is being turned into a nature reserve, and Tom Heap explores the science surrounding Bovine TB.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe provide the music.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire, where items brought in for valuation include two 18th-century paintings depicting the house's servants.

9.00 Poldark. Ross searches for Mark Daniel in the hope of finding copper and makes a deal with Trencrom – but it may be too late when George calls in his debts, leaving him faced with prison.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn, West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R)

11.10 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **3.00** Heir Hunters. (R) **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Rugby League.

6.00 Modern Times: 24 Hour Parcel People. On Christmas Eve 2014, next-day courier company City Link went into administration with the loss of thousands of jobs. This documentary was filmed in the summer of 2014 and tells the story of how the company tried to survive in the high-stakes world of overnight deliveries, uncovering the hidden world of the people who pack, process and deliver everything from trees to wine in orders placed with the UK's top 150 retailers. (R)

7.00 Ireland with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon visits Belfast for the July 12 parades, as well as exploring the Giant's Causeway, learning more about Oliver Cromwell, and attending the Gaze film festival. (R)

8.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. New series. Documentary exploring the history, geography, wildlife and people of America's deserts, including the agricultural traditions of the Hopi tribe in Arizona.

9.00 Sir Chris Hoy: 200mph at Le Mans. Documentary following the Olympic cyclist as he retrains as a racing driver to pursue a lifelong dream of competing in the world's toughest endurance race, the Le Mans 24 Hours.

10.00 Film: Begin Again. (2013) Premiere. A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.

11.40 Film: Wonder Boys. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas.

1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** The Face of Britain by Simon Schama. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.40** Victoria. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Nigel Havers, Melinda Messenger, Michelle Hardwick and Dave Gorman work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of the first live show, before a sing-off is held to determine which of the lowest scoring acts will be the first elimination of the year.

9.00 Victoria. The queen is heavily pregnant, but defies her mother and husband when they try to keep her confined to the palace – while the Duke of Cumberland sees political advantage to be gained should Victoria die in childbirth. During a public appearance by Victoria and Albert, a man in the crowd tries to assassinate her, setting in motion a number of conspiracy theories. Skerett receives an offer from Francatelli to join him in his new establishment. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, including Bath v Sale Sharks, Harlequins v Northampton Saints and Saracens v Wasps.

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.45 Triathlon: Stoke on Trent European City of Sport Triathlon 2016. **7.40** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. James gets an enquiry about a passenger jet simulator, which the owner wants £150,000 for, and shows some unexpected kindness when a client is in danger of losing his collection of silver. A pilates instructor hopes her collection of designer handbags will be valuable enough to fund a dream holiday, and a diamond and sapphire necklace is pawned to fund a skincare business.

8.00 Speed Special: Guy's World Record Attempt. Guy Martin attempts to break the motorcycle land speed record, which currently stands at 376mph. He travels to Bonneville Salt Flats in Nevada, where he must learn to ride a unique jet-propelled bike which has two engines and requires a completely different driving technique to any vehicle he has previously encountered.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. The recent outbreak of infighting on the island seems to have come to an end, and the castaways hope to make peace and enjoy a relaxed day off from their responsibilities. However, the peace does not last and hunger is soon taking an even greater toll than ever on the party. Karen Danczuk takes charge of the crisis and proposes a drastic solution – she intends to lead a small hunting party on an expedition to catch and kill a crocodile, providing the starving celebrities with an unusual source of meat. Last in the series.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: Predators. (2010) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody and Topher Grace.

1.05 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Barcelona. (R) **1.35** Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate. **3.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pets. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** FIA Formula E Live: Hong Kong. **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show Greatest Gadgets Ever! (R) **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **11.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50 Film:** Hercules. (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan. **4.35 Film:** Robin Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov.

6.15 Now That's Funny! Featuring clips of the world's most competitive people and footage of unusual animal antics, including a ninja dog.

7.05 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. A double act bends metal bars and an illusionist makes a coin disappear into thin air. A performer asks Penn to help him out with a mind manipulation trick, while Jonathan Ross is recruited to help a kickboxer with a stunt involving 51 decks of cards and a woodchipper. Penn and Teller wrap up the show by performing an unusual flower-arranging trick.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Todd is forced to travail a tenuous ice crossing with the heaviest haul in Polar Industries' history, while Art embarks on a high-stakes rescue mission.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Parker. (2013) A thief is betrayed and left for dead by his partners in crime. He learns they are planning a diamond heist in a wealthy neighbourhood, so poses as a millionaire wanting to buy a house in the area. A real-estate agent sees through the disguise and helps him get even by stealing the gems from his traitorous gang. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez. Includes 5 News at 10pm.

11.20 Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 In Their Own Words: 20th Century Composers **8.00** Gypsy: Live from the Savoy Theatre **10.15** Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood **11.45** Tales from the Royal Bedchamber **12.45** Light and Dark **1.45** Impact! A Horizon Guide to Plane Crashes **2.45** Dissected: The Incredible Human Hand **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.00 Coronation Street **1.25** Catchphrase **2.10** You've Been Framed! **2.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.50 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** The Hot Desk: DNCE **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.25 Rosemary & Thyme **2.25 Film:** Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **4.10 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.55** A Touch of Frost **3.35** May the Best House Win **5.15** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

3.30 FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **4.45 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.05 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **1.15** Steve McQueen: Motorcycle Movie Star **2.10** The Big Fish Off

E4

12.30 Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **1.30** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **2.40 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Goldbergs **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **11.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.20** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Gogglebox **2.25** Body Fixers **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4

2.35 Evolution (2001) **4.35** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.40** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Iron Man 2 (2010) **11.25** Arbitrage (2012) **1.35** Hitchcock/Truffaut (2015) **3.20** Close

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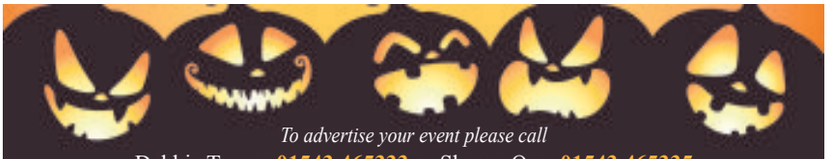
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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Layer Cake, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A London cocaine dealer is all set to leave the criminal world behind and start a new life abroad. However, his plans are thwarted when he is asked to track down a gangster's drug-addicted daughter and locate a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig. (2004)

WEDNESDAY

The Time Traveler's Wife, Channel 4, 1.15am

A librarian suffers from a strange condition that causes him to involuntarily move backwards and forwards in time. He marries a woman who was already in love with him after an encounter in his future and her past, but his journeys through history put a strain on their relationship, especially as he learns more about events that have yet to happen. Romantic sci-fi drama based on Audrey Niffenegger's novel, starring Rachel McAdams. (2009)



Django Unchained, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Delhi-6, Channel 4, 1.40am

Roshan accompanies his ailing grandmother to Delhi when she insists on dying in the land of her birth. He has spent all his life outside India and is initially awed by everything he sees, especially the close-knit community life and the fusion of Hindu-Muslim culture in his grandparents' old neighbourhood. But the deep-rooted animosity between Hindus and Muslims soon resurfaces, and Roshan, whose mother is a Muslim, is taken aback by the violent hatred he faces. Drama, starring Abhishek Bachchan, Waheeda Rehman, Sonam Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Om Puri. In Hindu with English subtitles. (2009)

FRIDAY

Django Unchained, Channel 5, 10pm

A slave named Django is tracked down by eccentric German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz, who offers him his freedom in exchange for help bringing three criminals to justice. The unlikely allies continue their partnership after the job is done, and fight to rescue Django's wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning Western, starring Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L Jackson. (2012)

There's a web of intrigue for Julien in new case

Two years ago, viewers were gripped by The Missing, which starred James Nesbitt as a distraught father desperately searching for his young son who disappeared during a holiday to France.

The series ended on an ambiguous note – some viewers thought the mystery had been solved, others felt there were still some loose threads left dangling. However, the bad news for those in the latter camp is that this new series won't be picking up where the last one left off.

The good news is Tchéky Karyo is reprising his role as French detective Julien Baptiste to tackle a whole new case. And while the first run largely concentrated on parents dealing with the horror of not knowing what had happened to their child, this one takes a different approach.

Writers Harry and Jack Williams say: "While we were writing the first series, we began talking about what the show would have been had Oliver Hughes been found. This story grew out of that discussion.

"It's the other side of the coin to series one – an exploration of loss, of freedom, of how the past can shape the present in myriad ways that we cannot fully understand. It's bigger, more ambitious, and we're delighted to have such a brilliantly talented cast joining Julien Baptiste for a new case."

That cast includes David Morrissey (The Walking Dead, Extant) and Keeley Hawes (Line of Duty, The Casual Vacancy, The Durrells) as Sam and Gemma Webster, whose daughter Alice went missing in Eckhausen, Germany, in 2003.

By late 2014, Sam and Gemma are barely speaking to each other, and Alice's brother Matthew (Jake Davies) has become violent and withdrawn.

But then a young British woman is founding stumbling through the streets of Ekchausen, where she subsequently collapses – and is identified as Alice (Abigail Hardingham).

In theory, her return should be a cause for rejoicing, but the news throws her family into turmoil and sends shockwaves through the tight-knit German community.

As with the original series, we move between the present day and the original investigation. Even knowing that Alice will be found shouldn't make the series less tense, especially as it seems that she may hold vital clues to the whereabouts of a second missing girl, Sophie Giroux, whose 2003 disappearance was investigated by Baptiste. As the detective heads to Iraq, following a lead that he believes is key to finding the girls' abductor, the Webster family has to deal with what happens when the child you've spent years longing to be reunited with actually comes back.

Executive producer Willow Grylls promises we'll be hooked: "I am so proud to have such a high calibre of cast attached to this project and, with the genius of Harry and Jack Williams' scripts, I know the audience will be gripped to this series just as much as they were to the first. And the beloved Julien Baptiste is back!

"The Missing series two will be just as thrilling, heart-wrenching and character driven as you'd hope it to be."



Tcheky Karyo stars in The Missing, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Derren Brown: Miracle

Channel 4, 9pm

The award-winning hypnotist, mindreader and master of psychological Illusion returns to the stage with a show that explores the world of evangelical faith healing, with Derren selecting people from the audience with a variety of ailments and attempting to rectify their problems using only the power of faith and the laying on of hands. The spectacle was created by Derren and his long-time collaborators Andy Nyman and Andrew O'Connor and was filmed over two nights at the Palace Theatre in London's West End.

TUESDAY

World Cup Qualifier Live

ITV, 7.15pm

Commentators Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle have been brushing up on their Slovenia facts as the side takes on England at 7.45pm. This Group F fixture takes place at Ljubljana's Stozice Stadium, and there will no doubt be some inspiring words from Gareth Southgate as he covers four games after Sam Allardyce's surprise departure last month. The Three Lions are obviously hoping to reach the tournament in Russia, but – pushing the big cat theme to breaking point – let's hope pride doesn't come before a fall. Slovenia have pulled many surprises out of the bag in the past, so it's anyone's guess who will emerge victorious from this showdown. Mark Pougatch introduces the proceedings.

WEDNESDAY

Aberfan: The Young Wives Club

ITV, 9pm

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, in which 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives when a colliery spoil tip collapsed, burying a village school in South Wales. It was a tragedy that shocked Britain and devastated a community, and now the victims' relatives, some of whom are speaking publicly for the first time, talk about that day and how they have tried to rebuild their lives following such an unimaginable loss. In particular, the documentary focuses on the founding of the weekly Aberfan Young Wives club, which provided an outlet for the bereaved mothers' grief. The members reveal that although the bond they formed has helped them through some difficult times, there is a part of them that will be forever entwined with the day of the disaster.

THURSDAY

Anne Robinson's Britain

BBC1, 8pm



Derren Brown: Miracle, Monday, Channel 4, 9pm

It's probably fair to say that Anne Robinson isn't Britain's cuddliest, cosiest TV presenter, but she does have a softer side, which she displays in the second edition of this series. Robinson is a self-confessed dog-lover, which comes in handy as she celebrates the nation's pet owners, some of which are rather on the eccentric side. Among those she discusses the subject with are a socialite who's obsessed with horses, and a homeless person whose main companion is a canine. There's also a chance to meet the woman who claims her rabbits helped her cope with her divorce, and the seven London cats with more than a millions Facebook followers. However, it's a segment focusing on what pets say about their owners that proves to be the most entertaining moment.

FRIDAY

Jamie's Super Food

Channel 4, 8pm

While in South Korea, Jamie Oliver meets one of the oldest people in the world and learns about her diet of nutrient-rich, home grown vegetables. Then, in the mountains of Switzerland, he goes looking for healthy grains. Back at home, the chef reveals how one well-known supermarket super food can be used to create numerous, nutritious and delicious breakfasts with 'avocado 4 ways'. He breaks out some colourful vegetables to enhance chicken fajitas for lunch, and adds barley to a beef and Guinness stew for dinner.

Britain's Greatest Bridges

Channel 5, 9pm

New series. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood.

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3 DEC • BILLY ELLIOT IN MANCHESTER
3 DEC • PHANTOM • JERSEY BOYS
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20 NOV Daresbury Hotel ★LIONEL RITCHIE
★CHESTER & MATLOCK VICTORIAN XMAS MARKET
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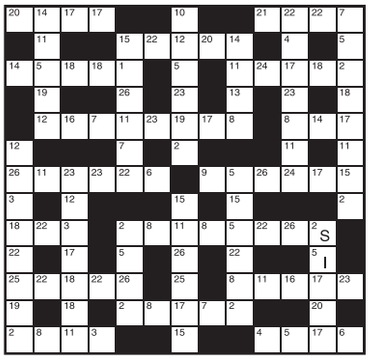
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



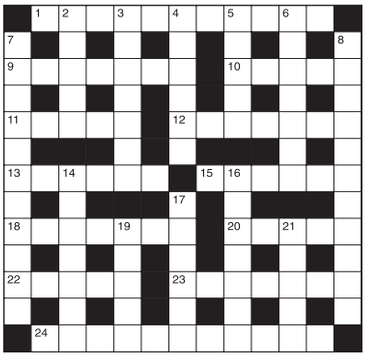
1	14
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3	16
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6	19
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11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	F	Y	M	O	Z	R	L	V	E	B	G	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	W	U	K	J	S	D	A	H	I	X	C	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Motion in favour of standing (11)
9. Lets Rob cook crustacean (7)
10. Subsequently further back? (5)
11. The best of the literature (5)
12. In tones indicating strain (7)
13. Where there's fighting on the weather map? (6)
15. Somehow, pet ran to father or mother (6)
18. Make cuts in the theatre? (7)
20. Gratuity has risen like a theatre seat? (3-2)
22. Animal from Eastern country (5)
23. Residents winning games of chess? (7)
24. Supposition of starting again at the pit-head (11)

Down

2. Priest cut off animal's tail (5)
3. Long suffering person under treatment (7)
4. Priest upset mischievous spirit (6)
5. More than one mark the writer? (5)
6. The team back in the pavilion? (7)
7. Blooming senior? (11)
8. Lead to gap in mountains to make it happen (5,2,4)
14. It's nothing to write a tune out of doors (4,3)
16. In great temptation to try (7)
17. He's neither too big nor too small for a sitting (6)
19. Also two points in the mountains (5)
21. In occupation of a paved area (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Unclassifiable (11)
9. Built (7)
10. Counterfeit (5)
11. Sift (5)
12. Ingredient (7)
13. Niche (6)
15. Quantity (6)
18. Wind (7)
20. Overturn (5)
22. Ingenuous (5)
23. Briskly (7)
24. Affluence (11)

Down

2. Fat (5)
3. Trembles (7)
4. Depress (6)
5. Plunder (5)
6. Upstart (7)
7. Dimension (11)
8. Giving back (11)
14. Goblet (7)
16. Half-drunk (7)
17. Rupture (6)
19. Live (5)
21. Wise men (5)

Sudoku

			9		2			8
8		6				2	4	
			8		5	6		
2	3		4					1
			2		1		5	
4				5	9		2	3
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	1	8			4		9	7
			5		6	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	6	4	7	9	3	2	5
2	9	7	5	6	3	1	4	8
5	4	3	1	8	2	6	7	9
8	5	2	3	4	6	7	9	1
7	6	4	2	9	1	8	5	3
9	3	1	7	5	8	2	6	4
6	2	5	8	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	8	9	2	7	5	3	6
3	7	9	6	1	5	4	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Inactive; 5 Idle; 9 Call; 10 Accursed; 11 Defer; 12 Pursuer; 13 Statelessness; 18 Restrain; 19 Well; 20 Ignoble; 21 Bound; 22 Etch; 23 Attended. Down: 2 Nearest; 3 Collect; 4 Vice-president; 6 Dispute; 7 Endures; 8 Quires; 13 Service; 14 Arsenic; 15 Enrobe; 16 New moon; 17 Silence. QUICK - Across: 1 Admonish; 5 Calf; 9 Ache; 10 Ignorant; 11 Minor; 12 Tensile; 13 Senselessness; 18 Tangible; 19 Weep; 20 Settled; 21 Petty; 22 Yaps; 23 Detested. Down: 2 Decline; 3 Onerous; 4 Sign the pledge; 6 Avarice; 7 Fitness; 8 Doings; 13 Satisfy; 14 Non-stop; 15 Edible; 16 Newness; 17 Sceptre.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of which country is Gozo a part?
2. What was the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy called?
3. What is the forename of Johan Cruyff's ex-Manchester United football-playing son?
4. Which type of pilot is named from the Japanese for 'wind of the gods'?
5. In which English county is the chalk figure known as the Cerne Abbas Giant?
6. Which English composer's middle name was Kemp?
7. Which actor/director was born Allen Stewart Konigsberg?
8. Of which country is the Irrawaddy the chief river?
9. How many pounds are there in a hundredweight?
10. Who was the father of Jacob and Esau?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Africa; 2 Brighton; 3 Iris;

4 Driving Miss Daisy; 5 George III;

6 Leinster; 7 David Copperfield; 8 Titanium;

9 Australia; 10 Otter.

Niner: RESOLVING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3588 gives a British statesman,
926451 gives a Greek mathematician,
172198 gives a French novelist.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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- Tour of the Dolomites – with some of the world's finest alpine scenery
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Catherine's Palace in St Petersburg, with its turquoise, gold and white facade



The iconic Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen, Denmark



Old City Wall, Tallinn, the medieval capital of Estonia



A magnificent view from Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

Climb on board to enjoy history, culture, sightseeing and more

By Chris Hutchinson

We had almost decided on a city holiday to Sweden and Denmark when we saw a Fred Olsen cruise which included those two countries, plus the bonus of Baltic Sea countries Estonia, Latvia and Russia – with St Petersburg as the highlight.

The itinerary immediately appealed, and with the help and knowledge from the tour staff, we booked a series of excursions well within our budget.

Leaving from a UK port has many benefits, including extra luggage allowance and speedy embarkation.

After two sunny days' sailing, we entered the Swedish Archipelago, a group of 30,000 islands; our ship Balmoral weaved through a four-hour scenic passage.

Arriving in Stockholm, a panoramic city tour took in the highlights. Strolling around the oldest district, Gamla Stan, you absorb the heart and antiquity of the city. In Tallinn, a medieval town in Estonia, our walking tour was a great way to soak up sights and sounds of this enchanting place, with narrow cobbled streets, secret courtyards and fairytale towers.

Troubadours and Minstrels entertain, singing and playing traditional songs in authentic dress. Stalls selling hand knitted clothing and amber – known as Baltic gold– are sold at keen prices. Lunch of pork, cooked Estonian style, is a culinary delight.

The next morning, we arrived at St Petersburg, Russia. Two names are synonymous with this extraordinary city, rulers Peter and Catherine the Great, whose influence dominated Imperial Russia and still evident today. We made the most of our first day, with tours of Peterhof Palace and the Hermitage, which houses more than 2.8 million works of art. Lunch in a typical Russian restaurant started with vodka tasting.

In the evening, we were taken to the Nickolaevsky Palace, featuring a traditional folk show, entertained by musicians, singers and dancers, each routine reflecting different regions of Russia. During the interval, Russian Champagne, vodka, caviar and canapés were served generously. The show ended with a rousing Cossack theme.

Highlights

The city's highlights tour captures the most significant sights of St Petersburg. By now, we were only half way through our cruise.

Riga, regarded as the 'Pearl of Latvia', is characterised by three distinct faces, from 14th century medieval roots, quality Art Nouveau buildings and 19th century wooden architecture. We visited the Dome Cathedral, while meandering round the quaint old town, you become enthralled in its history. Sailing to Denmark, we had unexpected sight of a pod of dolphins appearing either side of the ship.

Balmoral berthed a short walk from Copenhagen's iconic attraction, the Little Mermaid; despite three serious injuries, she sits serenely on her bed of rocks.

After taking in Copenhagen's highlights, we arrived at the old charming fishing village of Dragor. We strolled the narrow streets of yellow cottages with thatched roofs, gardens ablaze with Hollyhocks, ending with Danish pastry and coffee served at an old inn.

Our final night in Balmoral's theatre featured all the artists and dancers in a spectacular show that left us clamouring for more.





PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Superb extended link-detached with a re-fitted kitchen

A superb extended link detached bungalow in Acre Rise, Summer Hayes, Willenhall is excellently presented.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £190,000.

The bungalow is much improved throughout and has spacious living accommodation. This briefly comprises of a recently re-fitted breakfast kitchen, an entrance hall, a utility room, further storage/office space, an extended lounge/diner, three bedrooms and a tiled bathroom/wet room. Outside the property has a landscaped rear garden and off road parking for several cars.

In more detail the kitchen has cream coloured modern units and contrasting working surfaces, splash-back tiling, integrated appliances, ample cupboards and tiled flooring. A door opens to the utility room which has space for appliances and French doors opening to a versatile space which is currently used as an office.

The extended lounge/diner is spacious and light, having two large sliding patio doors opening to the rear garden and wood-effect flooring and a feature fireplace.

Bedroom one is a double bedroom with built-in storage. Bedroom two is also a double and have a window overlooking the rear garden. Also being a double bedroom, the third bedroom has a window overlooking the frontage of the property.

The bathroom/wet room is fully tiled with a walk-in shower, sink vanity unit and a WC.

The rear garden is landscaped with artificial turf and enclosed by fencing and with a side gate access and features a large terrace/patio.

Goodchilds Estate Agents & Lettings is a relatively young but dynamic company, having been established since 1994 as Goodchilds Property Investments offering affordable rental properties into the residential market.

A spokesman said: "We are extremely proud to have established our business as both a leading estate and residential lettings agency built by consistently exceeding client expectations."

WILLENHALL £190,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds

TEL: 01922 711444

EMAIL: bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com

KEY FEATURES

- Desirable area
- Re-fitted breakfast kitchen
- Extended
- Low maintenance garden
- Ideally placed for commuting







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Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings







Water Reed Grove, Walsall

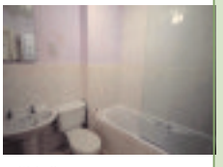
- Three Bedrooms
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom & Ensuite Shower Room
- Off Road Parking
- Close to Motorway Links
- fully Furnished
- Cloakroom
- W/C

Monthly Rental Of £725 PCM

NEW







Drayman Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Separate Kitchen with some Appliances
- Bathroom with Shower over
- Master Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Close to Town Centre
- Viewings Highly Recommended

Monthly Rental Of £575



Broadway, Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Communal Hallway with Lift
- Kitchen/Lounge
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £495 PCM



Walker Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Large 'L' shape Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Secure Communal Entrance
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450 PCM

NEW

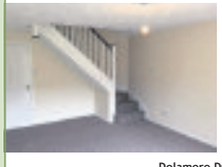


Wood Lane, Willenall

- Two Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Large Lounge with Feature Fireplace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Garden to the Rear
- Ideal Location for Access to the M6 Motorway
- Viewings Highly Recommended
- Sorry No DHSS

£695 PCM







Delamere Drive, Walsall

- Two Bedroom End Terrace Property
- Entrance Hall
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with Patio Doors
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Recently decorated
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £595 PCM



Glastonbury Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Spacious Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Large Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom with Separate Cubical
- Rear Garden
- Front Driveway
- Brand New Boiler
- Freshly Decorated Throughout
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £550 PCM



Signal Grove, Walsall

- Two Bedroom
- 1st Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Separate Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- Wardrobes in both bedrooms

Monthly Rental Of £450 PCM



Thornbury Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

Monthly Rental Of £425 PCM

NEW



The Exchange , Bloxwich

- ONE BEDROOM SELF CONTAINED FLAT
- Entrance Hallway
- Large Separate Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- DHSS Accepted
- Sorry No Pets

£400 PCM



Terret Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-suite
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Secruity Entrance Gates

Monthly Rental Of £525 PCM



Squires Grove, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge with Double Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS



Monthly Rental Of £525 PCM



Harrison Street, Bloxwich

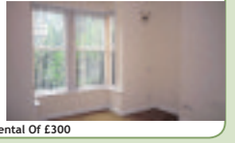
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower
- D.Glazing
- Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £350 PCM



Broadway North, Walsall

- STUDENT ACCOMMODATION
- HOUSE SHARE
- 7 ROOMS
- 5 ROOMS WITH WASHING FACILITIES AND SHOWER CUBICALS
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- RECENTLY REFURBISHED



Monthly Rental Of £300

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Lakelot Close, Willenhall — NEW



- Large Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Master En-Suite,

Viewing: **£215,000**

Riverbank Road, Willenhall — NEW



- Three Bedrooms - Master Ensuite
- FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME
- Large Useful Loft Room
- Family Shower Room,

Viewing: **£175,000**

Furzebank Way, Willenhall — NEW



- Two Bedrooms
- Viewing essential
- Semi Detached
- Rear Garden,

Viewing: **£145,000**

Essington Way, Wolverhampton — NEW



- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Modern Apartment
- Kitchen,

Viewing: **£79,950**

Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton — NEW



- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Lounge
- Kitchen,

Viewing: **£74,950**

Drancy Avenue, Willenhall — NEW



- Two Bedroom
- Town House
- Ideal First Time Buy
- Downstairs W.C,

Viewing: **£110,000**

Yale Road, Willenhall — NEW



- Top Floor
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage
- Lounge,

Viewing: **£100,000**

Lord Street, Walsall



- POTENTIAL TO EXTEND (SUBJECT TO PLANNING)
- LARGE CORNER
- MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN

Viewing: **£130,000**

Martin Drive, Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom detached house
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Good size bathroom
- EPC - D, Modern kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£145,000**

Moseley Road, Willenhall



- Semi Detached Residence
- Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
- Porch & Downstairs WC
- EPC Rating F, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£99,995**

Stubby Lane, Wolverhampton



- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Popular Residential Area
- Modern Kitchen
- EPC - D, Large Lounge/Diner

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£80,000**

Arnhem Road, Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom Terrace House
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Porch and Entrance Hallway
- EPC Rating - D, Downstairs wc

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£90,000**

CALL NOW FOR A FREE VALUATION

Little Island Drive, Willenhall



- Three Storey Semi Detached
- Large Lounge
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - TBA, Three Double Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£155,000**

Woodcote Road, Wolverhampton



- Modern 4 bedroom detached house in Tettenhall
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC - D, Downstairs wc

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£300,000**

Moseley Road, Willenhall



- Traditional 3 bedroom detached house
- Entrance porch and hallway
- Dining room
- , lounge/diner

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£170,000**

Bay Avenue, Bilston



5 Bedroom modern detached family house, 2 en-suites, main bathroom, wc, kitchen, lounge and dining room Garage and driveway, central heating and double glazing, rear garden, Call Paul Dubberley on

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£245,000**

Lavender Grove, Bilston



Immaculate three bedroom semi detached house, lounge, modern breakfast kitchen, conservatory, modern shower room, double glazing and central heating, driveway providing ample parking, front

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£117,000**

Middleway Road, Bilston



GREAT SIZED three bedroom semi detached house, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, utility, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, front and rear gardens, planning permission for

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£115,000**

Fraser Street, Bilston



3 bedroom terraced property, modern kitchen and modern bathroom with a P-shaped bath and thermostatic shower, 2 reception rooms, double glazing and central heating, garden to rear, call

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£77,000**

Lilac Road, Wolverhampton



Spacious 3 bedroom extended semi detached house, entrance hall, reception 1, lounge/diner, kitchen, modern bathroom, EN-SUITE TO BEDROOM 3, driveway and garage, rear garden with

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£136,950**

Steven Drive, Bilston



IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT Previously rented out for £450pcm with a yield of 7%. Modern 1 bedroom property, modern breakfast kitchen, lounge, newly refurbished bath-

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£70,000**

Lime Grove, Bilston



SIZE MATTERS! Viewing Recommended 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property, Driveway, Entrance Porch, and Hallway, Lounge/Dining area, Kitchen, Bathroom, Central Heating and Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£85,000**

Constantine Way, Bilston



Modern Detached Offering Large Family Accommodation Benefiting gas central heating. Situated on a sought after development whilst briefly comprising, Reception hall, Guest Cloakroom,

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£249,995**

Humphries Crescent, Bilston



A newly exclusive development of 3 detached bungalows, shared tarmacked driveway leading to gravelled parking at front of bungalow. Comprising entrance hall, en-suite to main bedroom, bathroom,

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£165,000**

Loxdale Sidings, Bilston



1 Bedroom modern flat with no upward chain, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, allocated parking, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£52,500**

Constantine Way, Bilston



An immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate. Gas Central Heating, UPVc Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly Comprising: Re-

ASKING PRICE OF
Viewing: **£164,950**

Wellington Road, Bilston



IDEAL FAMILY HOME BENEFIT FROM REFURBISHMENT

Traditional Detached 3 Bedroom House, off road

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£145,000**

Great Bridge Road, Bilston



3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, cellar, wc, bathroom, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£115,000**

Ambleside Close, Bilston



Great Investment Investment 2 Bedroom terraced house with lounge, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, electric heating and double glazing, driveway and rear garden, early viewing recom-

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£90,000**

Moorcroft, Bilston



Deceptively Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location.

Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central

OFFERS IN THE RE-
Viewing: **£104,000**

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50 Cemetery Road, Willenhall
2 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



85 Abbey Road, Erdington
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £40,000 plus



32 Taylor Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £68,000 - £73,000



22 Providence Lane, Walsall
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £44,000 - £49,000



226 Queslett Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £54,000 - £59,000



Flat 6, 78 Persehouse St., Walsall
Residential Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £4,500 pa.
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5 WATERLOO ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

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Dartmouth Avenue Walsall




Offers around £139,950

Offers are invited on this good sized three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and no upward chain. This ideal family home further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, good size rear garden with enclosed secure parking with large out buildings (workshop and mechanics inspection pit), block paved driveway to the front providing off road parking for several vehicles behind remote electric gates. Energy rating D.

St. Peters Road Dudley





Offers around £139,995

●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● A rare opportunity to purchase a unique two bedroom detached property with attractive canal side views & location and having the benefit of a fitted intruder alarm, part double glazing and gas central heating. The accommodation briefly comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and shower room. To the rear there is a paved patio and canal side views. Energy rating F.

Glebe Street Walsall



Offers around £159,995

A four bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of double glazed windows, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises reception hall, guest W.C, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 4 x bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and integrated garage. Energy rating C.

Severn Road Walsall



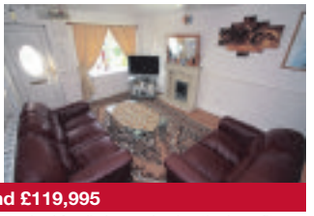


Offers around £115,000

A three bedroom, modern, middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, block paved driveway, providing off road parking and rear garden. Energy rating C.

Crown Court Victoria Mews





Offers around £119,995

A well presented two bedroom modern semi detached family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and allocated parking space. Energy rating D.

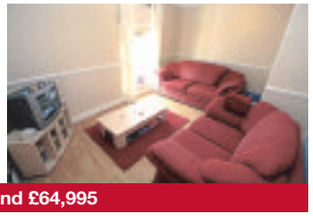
Bransdale Close Farndale



Offers around £114,995

A lovely three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and cul-de-sac location. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating C.

Little Station Street Walsall

Offers around £64,995

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Hall Street East Darlaston



Offers around £80,000

A well presented second floor two bedroom apartment in a popular residential location. The property comprises of reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazed windows, electric heating, no upward chain and allocated parking space. Energy rating C.



197 Green Lane Leamore



Offers around £75,000

A modern first floor flat having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for Landlord or first time buyer the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family shower room, two bedroom, communal parking and gardens. Energy rating C.

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All-new Nissan NV300 revealed

By James Parker

Following a tantalising glimpse of its distinctive V-motion grille ahead of the UEFA Champions League Final in May, Nissan has now revealed the all-new NV300 van in full. As the eagerly anticipated replacement for the Primastar, the NV300 sits between NV200/e-NV200 and NV400 in the Nissan LCV range. It's a highly significant model launch as it completes the rejuvenation of the Nissan LCV family line-up.

With this new mid-sized van, Nissan has one of the widest commercial vehicle ranges on the market, allowing dealers to provide a convenient 'one-stop shop' for van, truck and pick-up customers.

Supporting the brand's wider LCV strategy – which also includes the NT400 and NT500 trucks, plus the award-winning Navara pick-up – the NV300 is available as a panel van, crew van and as a Combi passenger vehicle. In addition, a floor cab version is available as a rolling chassis and is the perfect platform for bespoke conversions.

For unrivalled peace of mind, the NV300 is backed by Nissan's industry-leading five-year / 160,000 km warranty, which also applies to all Nissan genuine accessories fitted to the vehicle. With its efficient engine range and low servicing costs, the NV300 is a new 'running cost champion' for the segment.

It has been carefully designed to provide business users with a versatile 'mobile office' environment, offering passenger car levels of cabin comfort and driving refinement. With a range of efficient diesel engines, exceptional on-road dynamics, and in-control driver assistance and safety technologies, the NV300 is an exceptional new LCV.

Built at the Renault-Nissan Alliance plant at Sandouville, France, the NV300 goes on sale across Europe from November.

Four engine options are offered on the NV300. All use Nissan's trusted 1.6-litre dCi diesel engine – best known from the brand's Qashqai and X-Trail crossovers – with power outputs of 95hp, 120hp, 125hp and 145hp. The two former are single turbo, while the latter pair are twin turbo. All are mated to a six-speed manual transmission. Not all engines are available with all body styles.

All have a diesel particulate filter as standard and meet Euro 6 emissions standards. In addition, all are fitted with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology; using AdBlue urea solution poured in a separate on-board tank, this permits nitrogen oxide (NOx) reduction reactions to take place in an oxidizing atmosphere, cutting NOx exhaust emissions.

The twin turbo models have Stop & Start engine technology for reduced fuel consumption, plusan ECO mode switch with gear shift indicator. It's also an option on 95bhp unit. This allows drivers to optimise fuel consumption by limiting torque and smoothing accelerator response. The most efficient panel van is the 125hp, with Combined Cycle fuel economy of 5.9 litres/100km and CO2 emissions of only 155g/km. The figures are even better for the Combi, at 5.6 litres/100km and 145g/km.

Across the range, fuel consumption is on average 1.0 litres/100km lower than the Nissan Primastar. When combined with Nissan's unique-in-segment five-year/160,000km warranty – which also applies to all Nissan genuine LCV accessories – and recommended service intervals of two years / 40,000 km, the NV300 is the new running cost champion in the mid-sized LCV sector.

A range of 10 exterior colours is available – the four solid finishes are Magma Red, Mole Grey, Glacier White and Bamboo Green, while the six metallic are Oyster Grey, Mercury Grey, Jet Black, Panorama Blue, Copper Brown and Stone. The standard wheels are 16-inch steel rims, with 16-inch and 17-inch alloys can be specified.



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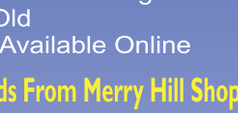


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Single Women

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JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTM gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424337**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424335**

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424045**

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box 423035**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424331**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 57, widow, likes dining out, country pubs, good conversation and laughter, seeks genuine professional gent, with a gosh with similar interests, to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424157**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424231**

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101**

LOUISE, 39, tactile good looking solvent female WLTM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055**

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on, lets share all the good things life has to offer together! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085**

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021**

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529**

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051**

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57,,attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignations. **Text only Mailbox: 5546538**

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for genuine male with gosh, for friendship, Walsall area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424025**

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015**

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to mee nice looking professional single man. **Text only Mailbox: 5535192**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903**

RUTH, 41, single mum fed up with child play, looking for adult relationship with attractive loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423629**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTM action man of any age for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423899**

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

LINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879**

SUSAN divorced female 44, OHAC, no ties, loves to keep fit and look good, WLTM mature guy to fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423849**

DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seeks similar male to help liven up weekends and make her laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423883**

BERNIE, 42yr old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423853**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

SUE, 58, feminine lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423577**

Single Men

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 421345**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. **Text only Mailbox: 5561456**

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325**

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321**

NICE old fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

TALL, 63 year old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789**

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. **Text only Mailbox: 4362854**

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, ohoc, solvent, so get back if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131**

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067**

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363**

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177**

MALE 43 slim, non smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liasons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. **Text only Mailbox: 5543476**

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like minded girl. **Text only Mailbox: 5545609**

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454**

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997**

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991**

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

ATTRACTIVE openminded male 57, seeks openminded female any age or status to share adult times. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

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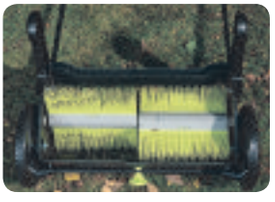
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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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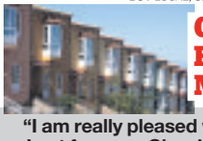
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7 Jobs

building & construction

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8 Motoring

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cars under £1500

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07971 727733.

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CITROEN C5 ESTATE DIESEL
2001. 12 months MoT. Excellent condition. Silver Grey. 121,000 miles. Tow bar.
£595 ono.
01543 505955 / 07733 063247.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 FINESSE 2001, 3dr, hatchback, MoT, low mileage, blue, good runner, reliable, bargain £265. 07771 428793.

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Spare wheel unused.
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Immaculate.
£495.
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or
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Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

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£500 ono.
0121 5597864 or 07578 776587.

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SEAT LEON SX, 2004, 75,000 miles, green, electric windows, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, alloys, £750 ono. 07961 946193.

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i
16V.2005, hatchback, silver, manual, petrol, 3dr, MoT, AUX Connectivity, MP3 alloys.
£1,000ono. Sold as seen.
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01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application has been made by Sukhpreet Kaur, to the Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, at Walsall Council, for a Premises Licence in respect of premises to be known as: Nisa, 125 Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands WS3 2HS.
The application includes the following terms:
1. To enable the sale of alcohol between Monday-Sunday 07.00-23.00, for consumption off the premises.
Full details of the application may be viewed at the Council Offices, Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP during normal office hours Monday to Friday. (www.walsall.gov.uk).
Responsible Authorities or other persons, can make written representations regarding the application, to the above Licensing Authority, and they must be received no later than 1st November 2016.
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make false statement in connection with this application and on the summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

SITE OPERATIVE

Required for Roofing Company:
Full time Trainee Site Operatives required for specialised roofing company to work nationwide on construction projects.
Will involve occasional working away, regular overtime and occasional weekends are available.
A full UK driving licence and current CSCS card is required.
Full training will be given to suitable applicants.
Please contact Neil Boylan: 07867 97 04 54
Send CV to - nboylan@jandwuk.com

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Technical and Service Advisor BIASI
This role will be within our Technical team. The Technical advisor will be responsible for answering incoming technical enquiries for Biasi heating products from our customers, aiming to fix or diagnose any issues with our products or service as professionally and efficiently as possible. Our customers are merchants, installers and end users. This role reports into the Finance Director.
You will answer inbound communication via phone or written and provide trouble shooting and technical assistance to a high level. You will resolve complaints or escalated queries and schedule engineer visits in conjunction with the service department.
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10 Personals

personal



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general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email
marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.**Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/1172 RUSHALL OLYMPIC FC FOR: PROVISION OF NEW 3G ALL WEATHER TRAINING PITCH, SECURITY FENCING, 6X10M HIGH FLOOD LIGHTS AND IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE SITE. AT: RUSHALL OLYMPIC FOOTBALL CLUB, DAW END, RUSHALL, WALSALL, WS4 1LJ

16/0919 Waseem Rasab FOR: ERECTION OF 5 DWELLINGS. AT: THE HAWTHORNS, HIGHGATE DRIVE, WALSALL, WS1 3JW

16/1289 Indy Kaur FOR: INSTALLATION OF NEW WI-FI UNITS IN TO A LISTED BUILDING INCLUDING ASSOCIATED CABLING. AT: LLOYDS BANK, THE BRIDGE, WALSALL, WS1 1LU

16/0120 Mr Suky Samra FOR: RETAIN ROLLER SHUTTERS, BOX AND GUIDE RAILS TO FRONT DOOR, INSTALL STEEL RAILING TO GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS. RETENTION OF CCTV CAMERAS AND UPVC WINDOWS ALONG WITH ADVERTS (PART RETROSPECTIVE). AT: 17, NEWPORT STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1RZ

16/1313 Nicky Blackwell-Morgan FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL STORE TO WINE BAR, INCLUDING NEW SHOPFRONT AND ALTERATIONS TO REAR ACCESS. AT: FORMER CO OPERATIVE RETAIL SERVICES LTD, 198, WALSALL WOOD ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 8HB



Hawkins, front row, left, with the Wolves squad ahead of the First Division season in August 1983



Hawkins as a player in 1963



Hawkins pictured three years ago



Celebrations as Wolves are promoted at the end of the 82/83 season



Hawkins with Derek Dougan and John Ireland back in 1983

Dedicated ex-boss made life better for patients

MEL EVES has led the tributes to 'one of the greats' Graham Hawkins, who died last week at the age of 70.

Hawkins won promotion with Wolves both as a player and a manager, graduating through the club from a boyhood fan to boss the team he once watched from the terraces.

And Eves described Hawkins – who raised money for fellow cancer patients at Shrewsbury's Royal Hospital after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2009 – as 'a pleasure to be around'.

After being relegated from Division One at the end of the 1981/82 season, Hawkins was the man tasked with getting Wolves straight back to the promised land.

Hawkins, who helped the team gain promotion to the top flight as player in 1967, arrived from Shrewsbury, where he served as an assistant to Graham Turner, to take the reins at Molineux – and succeeded immediately.

Moulded

Wolves finished second – 10 points behind Queens Park Rangers – to go back up at the first time of asking, with the likes of Eves, Andy Gray and Kenny Hibbitt starring.

"It is a really sad loss," said Eves. "He moulded a great team. There was a really good mix of senior pros and young lads in the side.

"He did a really good job with players such as Andy Gray, Kenny Hibbitt, myself, John Humphrey, Dale Rudge, Ian Cartwright, Bobby Coy.

"We did really well to get promoted and there was a really great team spirit there among the players.

"I finished top scorer that season and he had the faith to put me up front alongside Andy Gray.

"It was just unfortunate in the following season he was left out to dry," Eves added. "We probably needed three or four more players so that was disappointing for everybody."

Wolves struggled in the following season, back in the top flight, and Hawkins was sacked in April 1984 with the club heading for the first of three successive relegations.

It was a dark period for the club which almost resulted in extinction.

After management, Hawkins worked for the Football League as head of youth development, helping hundreds of young footballers make the grade as professionals.

"When Graham was in his role with the Football League, he always conducted himself impeccably – he was very professional," Eves said.

"He was really easy to get on with and a pleasure to be around.

"I think the last time I saw him as at the London Wolves 50th anniversary, which was not long ago. I knew he had been struggling for a while but he managed to do an awful lot of fundraising."

Laurie Dalrymple, managing director of Wolves, said: "Graham made a huge contribution not only to Wolves but to football in general during his career. He was widely respected and well-liked, both inside and outside of football. It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Hawkins is survived by wife Jane, sons Ian and Richard and grandchildren Lauren, Amy, Holly and Louisa.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital staff described Hawkins' fundraising efforts as 'magnificent'.

Dr Sheena Khanduri, clinical lead for cancer services at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The trust has lost a great friend and supporter.

"Graham's magnificent fundraising efforts really helped to improve the experience of our patients.

"His fundraising efforts included donating iPads which offered a distraction and something else for patients to think about whilst they receive their treatment in our Haematology Day Centre and the Chemotherapy Day Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Legendary

"On behalf of the trust I would like to pass on my condolences to Graham's family."

Mr Hawkins was in the dugout at the Gay Meadow in the early 1980s alongside legendary manager Graham Turner before his move to Molineux.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive at Shrewsbury Town, said: "Graham will be remembered by many Shrewsbury Town fans for the work he did alongside Graham Turner as his assistant manager.

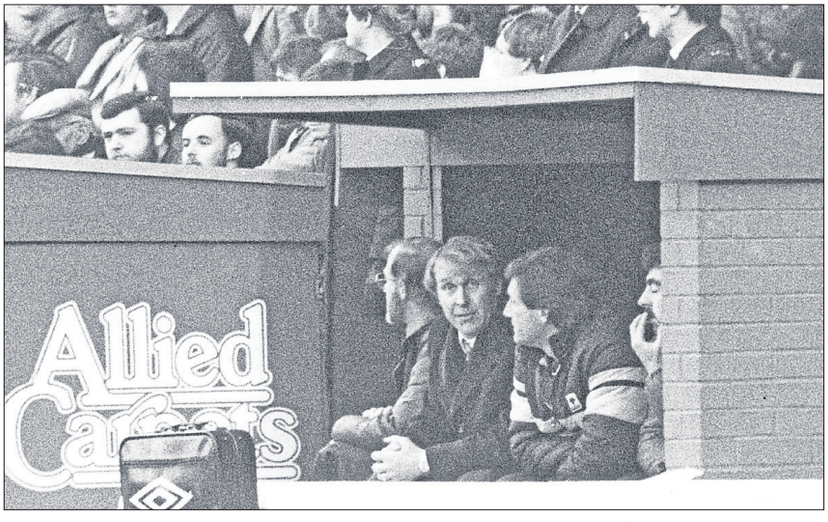
"It was a spell where the club played at the highest level in English football so far and Graham is remembered fondly by Town fans for being part of that.

"The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham's wife, Jane, his sons, Ian and Richard and the rest of his family and friends at this sad time."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

"It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers."



Hawkins in the Wolves hotseat, watching on from the dugout during a game at St Andrew's in 1984



Grahams Turner and Hawkins reunite at Shrewsbury Hospital as the latter visits to hand over computer equipment

Sport

Tribute to Wolves boss who devoted time to fundraising

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Romans hold off fightback from Wood

Rocester 3 Walsall Wood 2

WHEN Rocester went 3-0 ahead in the 72nd minute it looked all over for Wood, but they came roaring back and had the Romans hanging on at the end.

However, Wood were unable to find the equaliser their overall performance deserved.

The hosts went ahead fortuitously on 35 minutes as Callum Riddell raced into the left of the box. His low drive deflected for a corner, from which Karl Ashton powered in a header that had just too much power for the defender on the post.

Craig Deakin went close with a cross shot for Wood before on 43 minutes Rob Ritchie-Smith raced through one challenge and into the right of the box, Joe Haines saving Wood with a superbly timed challenge.

Wood put the home goal under pressure at the start of the second half but on 49 minutes they went two behind, Ritchie-Smith getting away wide right, crossing low into the box to find Ashton who fired home off the underside of the bar.

It looked to be all over when on 72 minutes Riddell challenged for a long ball forward, the ball breaking kindly for him as he ran into the left of the box, curling the ball past the advancing Adam Jenkins and into the far corner.

There were just 12 left when Ben Birch pulled a header back and nerves were jangling four minutes later when substitute Leon Taylor fired home.

It's Loughborough University up next for the Wood at home on Saturday.

● **Willenhall Town** produced a dominant display to down Wellington Amateurs 4-1 in the West Midlands Premier.

Matt Dorgan opened the scoring in the opening minute and later added a second. Other goals came from Chadd Birch and Matt Habbershaw, penalty.

Evans finally wears down opponent for sixth round victory

WEDNESBURY'S Sam Evans finally broke his opponent's resistance, claiming a TKO in last Saturday's fight night.

Light welter Evans, aged 20, featured in a six-rounder against Lithuania's Andrej Capurat the Fenton Manor Sports Complex on a show promoted by boxing legend Ricky Hatton.

Evans, with Hatton in his corner as coach, claimed a win with the sixth round one minute and 41 seconds old.

Capur's defensive skills eroded as Evans constantly waded in with the uppercut, before packing his punches together to force man in the middle Reece Carter to step in.

A left hook to the head shook Capur to his boots and Evans went for the kill, unleashing big shots with both hands until Carter acted.

It was a first stoppage for the Black Country fighter since last October, since when he's reeled off six victories without reply.

On the same card, Stafford's Rob Hunt suffered a shock points defeat in his 30th pro bout to journeyman William Warburton.

Club's silver lining after Irish trip



Pleck boxers who made the journey to Ireland

Boxing

PLECK Boxing Club settled for two silvers after taking a quartet of fighters to Ireland for the Celtic Box Cup. Four entries were made into the Elite Senior ranks with all reaching at least a semi-final at the Dungarvan Sports Centre in Waterford.

Macauley Owen, 19, featured at 64kg and won all three rounds in his quarter-final success against Norway's Kevin Gronlund.

Owen then went out to eventual winner Andrew Hunt, from Queensland in Australia.

River Wilson-Bent was one of two Pleck members in the mix at 69kg and got off to a winning start against Ben Demmery. He was paired with another Irishman, tall southpaw Michael Bustard, in the last four with the left-hander progressing on a split decision.

Pleck's Zohaib Hanif fought at the same weight, and saw off fellow Englishman Danny Milner on a split before beating Northern Ireland's Caoimhin Hynes on a split in the semis. But he lost to Bustard in the final.

Pleck's Liam Etheridge lost out in a straight 52kg final against Aussie Commonwealth Youth Games silver medallist Tyler Blizzard.

WHITNEY GETS HIS RESPONSE

Walsall 2 Millwall 1

IT'S always in the immediate aftermath of a heavy defeat that football fans get to truly learn about their side.

And after the humbling handed to them by Scunthorpe last Tuesday, there is no doubt Walsall entered this clash with some serious questions being asked.

While a victory over Millwall was never essential – a performance certainly was. Thankfully – and deservedly too – Jon Whitney got both, *writes Joe Masi*.

The Saddlers boss felt the need to publicly criticise his team following the loss to the Iron and demanded a response. Here he got it, as Walsall's battling qualities came to the fore.

Millwall – the bookmakers' pre-season favourites for the title – have now lost four games on the spin. But make no mistake, Neil Harris's side have the quality to ensure they will soon be back in the promotion shake-up.

Punished

Harris said before kick-off his team were playing well, yet they were being punished every time the ball entered their box.

That pattern continued at the Banks's when, after the visitors made a bright start, Walsall took the lead through their first attack.

Scott Laird's left-wing cross was knocked down into the path of Simeon Jackson by Franck Moussa – the striker emphatically converting from six yards.

The lead though lasted just six minutes, with Millwall getting back on terms when Fred Onyedinma powerfully headed past Neil Etheridge.

From that point on, the half became cagey and congested with the ball spending a lot of time in the middle of the park as both teams struggled for width.

But Walsall retook the lead with Moussa striking home after Jackson's effort was saved.

In an age where it seems most managers face calls for the sack following a defeat, Whitney has received some strong criticism in recent weeks.

Here though, this group of players certainly proved they are playing for their manager.



Franck Moussa fires the Saddlers to a 2-1 success over Millwall at the Banks's Stadium

Mallows at double in opening success

Sikh Union 2 Bloxwich 3

BLOXWICH men's hockey first team earned three points in their first match of the season against Sikh Union.

Bloxwich knew they had a tough game on their hands after two very difficult matches against a fit and skilful Coventry-based team last season.

Neither team could break the deadlock before half time with the scores remaining at 0-0. After the interval, Bloxwich came out stronger and the breakthrough was finally made by coach Steve Mallows.

The same player then converted a well struck short corner followed by a sweeping reverse shot through the legs of the keeper from Gary Williams.

Bloxwich stayed strong but with 12 minutes to go, Sikh Union got back into the game with two quick goals. With a nerve-wracking final few minutes to see out, Bloxwich held their nerve and were ecstatic to have got the three points.

Bloxwich's first home game of the season comes against Solihull Blossomfield this weekend.

Control of final stages secures win

Walsall 21 KCRFC 6

KIDDERMINSTER Carolians battled hard at previously unbeaten Walsall, but to no avail.

Walsall dominated the early stages, and kept KCs pinned in their own half. They missed a penalty after five minutes, but made no mistake three minutes later through Mitch Carless.

Freddie Morgan kicked a goal for KCs to bring the scores level after 15 minutes.

Against the run of play KCs took the lead on the stroke of half time, when Morgan kicked another penalty and they led at the break 6-3.

Walsall drew level with a Carless penalty after just two minutes of the second half and a further wave of attacks brought Jordan Lay a try.

Walsall took control in the final 20 minutes, Carless kicking a penalty, then adding a conversion to a Simon Weaver try.

United enjoyed a morale-boosting 44-15 win over Hereford. Winger Andy Worrolow scored three tries. Tony Lay on the other wing scored two and there is one each for Jamie Hickman, Luke Pittaway and Andy Taylor on his debut. Jack Crowhurst kicked two conversions.

The third XV beat Burton 2nds 58-25.

The Colts won 22-21 at Shrewsbury, while the under-14s played out an entertaining 22 - 22 draw against a tough Burton side.

Wednesbury 6 Bloxwich RUFC 10

WEDNESBURY number 8 Matt Dale kicked a penalty to give his side the lead, but Bloxwich hit back with a try and increased the advantage with a drop goal.

Matt Dale reduced the arrears with another penalty.

Wednesbury 2nds beat Bloxwich seconds away 36-19.

Captain sweeps the board at ceremony

FIRST team captain Ollie Freeman swept the board at the Bronze CC end of season presentation awards at Great Barr Golf Club.

The 1st XI had a highly successful season finishing fourth in division one of the Warwickshire Cricket League, and the performance of the captain was highlighted with awards for best batting, best bowling and players' player of the season. The 2nd XI captain Duncan Coley was again the most successful batsman in division six.

The 3rd XI awards were dominated by Satish Kurusamy whose two centuries won him the batting award.

★★★

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